The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

...burg, 9 October 1983
...-second year - No. 1103 - By air

...enscher tells Moscow to ...ccept Geneva proposals

...n Foreign Minister Hans-Die...ch Genscher has reiterated his ... to the Kremlin to take up the Western proposals at the Geneva ...n medium-range missiles.

...ressing the UN General Assem...err Genscher made no mention of ...dropov's latest statement — for ...sons.

..., he failed to see it as a direct re... to President Reagan's address ...General Assembly and to the US ...s latest Geneva proposals.

...nd, he felt the statement was in... more for domestic consumption ...or attention by Western public ...n.

...uch, he will have reasoned, it ... to replying. And in this assump... will have hit the nail on the ...

...r Genscher's speech, made on the ...anniversary of the accession to the UN of the two German states, was in keeping with the line consistently taken by the Bonn government and its predecessors.

One of its keynotes was the declared intention of continuing the course of cooperation and detente, is worth noting that Bonn continues to use the term "detente" whereas it seems to have been expunged from US political vocabulary for the time being.

Another was the express emphasis that recognition of Soviet security interests was accompanied by a demand for acknowledgement of the West's need for security.

"A Soviet monopoly in land-based medium-range missiles," he noted in this connection, "is something we cannot accept."

This is an outlook Bonn has long and consistently held. It makes Bonn government policy predictable in every way.

That is a point Moscow ought to be prepared to acknowledge and to honour, as a majority of the Community of nations has seen fit to do.

Herr Genscher was given more than polite applause by the General Assembly for repeatedly using the terms "cooperation" and "detente."

He did so not merely in respect of East-West ties but also with a view to relations between North and South and in his plea not to transfer the clash between the two major military blocs to the Third World.

His address was thus very much in keeping with the anniversary on which it was made. It well deserved to be read carefully in Moscow in particular: read, appreciated and borne in mind.

Dietrich Möller

(Rheinische Post, 30 September 1983)



Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (right) with American Secretary of State George Shultz. They were in New York for the opening of the United Nations general assembly, where Genscher made a speech. (Photo: dpa)

...IN THIS ISSUE

Removal of border death-strip weapons 'marks no change'

The news that automatic shrapnel guns on the GDR's side of its border with the Federal Republic were being dismantled sounded sensational.

There were hopes it might mark the beginning of a less inhuman division of the country. But such hopes were sadly mistaken.

The unusual way in which the news was released from Munich regrettably tended to make it more difficult to assess the position accurately.

Self-shooting devices removed from border — page 4

Germans in the GDR continue to be refused the right to travel and live where they want. The East Berlin government still keeps them locked up to prevent them from voting with their feet on so-called real socialism.

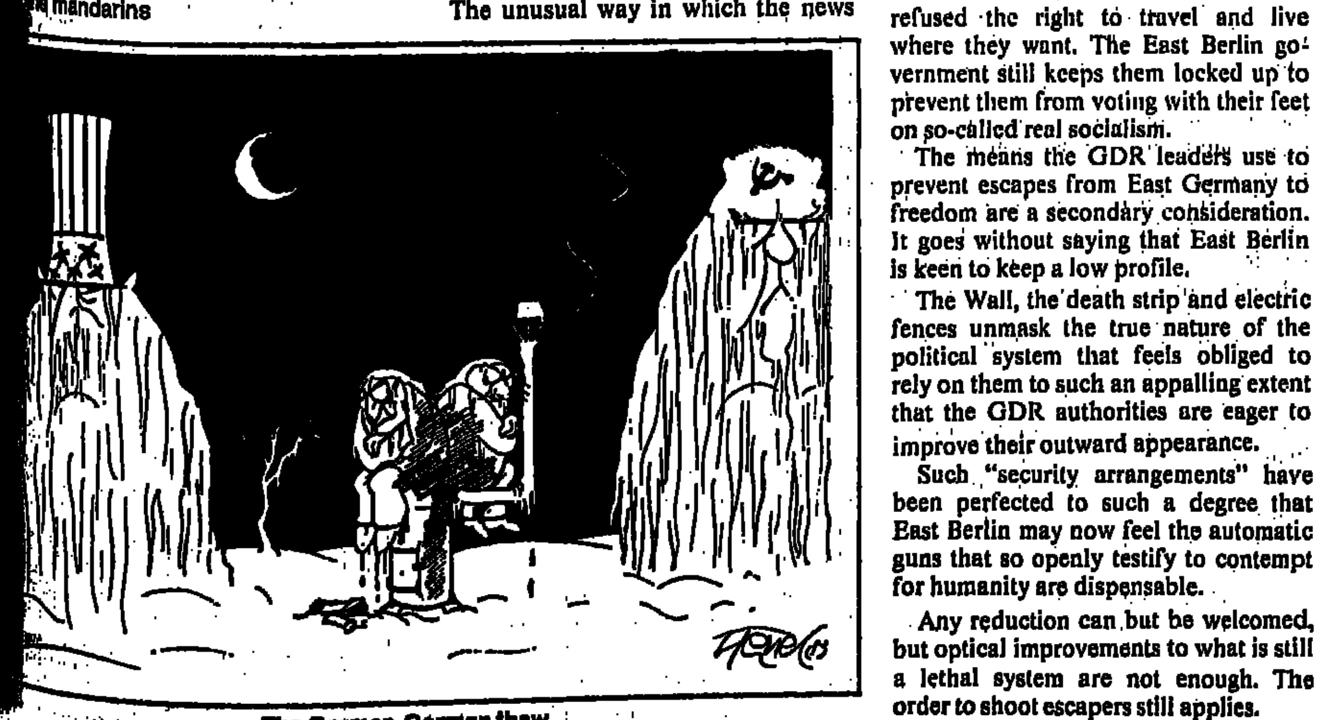
The means the GDR leaders use to prevent escapes from East Germany to freedom are a secondary consideration. It goes without saying that East Berlin is keen to keep a low profile.

The Wall, the death strip and electric fences unmask the true nature of the political system that feels obliged to rely on them to such an appalling extent that the GDR authorities are eager to improve their outward appearance.

Such "security arrangements" have been perfected to such a degree that East Berlin may now feel the automatic guns that so openly testify to contempt for humanity are dispensable.

Any reduction can but be welcomed, but optical improvements to what is still a lethal system are not enough. The order to shoot escapers still applies.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 September 1983)



The German-German thaw. (Cartoon: Hanel/Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger)

Kohl prepares his brief on missiles issue

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl wants the Bundestag to endorse the stationing of Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles in Germany in a debate on 21 November.

The Social Democrats are already opposed to the idea. They feel it would be wrong to reach a decision on the missiles as long as the Geneva talks are still in progress.

Yet stationing them is part of the Nato plan of action drawn up in 1979, when Social Democrats Helmut Schmidt and Hans Apel were respectively Chancellor and Defence Minister in Bonn.

So the Opposition may find the former Chancellor and his Defence Minister called in evidence against it, as it were.

The timing is not alone in being controversial. Doubts have been voiced whether a mere majority vote in the Bundestag would be sufficient to justify stationing the new missiles in Germany.

Some call for legislation, others for a constitutional amendment. Root-and-branch opponents of "missile modernisation" argue that there can be no legal basis, merely an obligation to offer resistance.

So the clashes have only just begun. They will grow more heated, especially outside Parliament. That is why it is all the more important for the Bundestag to stand by the original concept.

So far Nato and Bonn have stood by the dual-track policy of arms limitation talks and missile modernisation.

It is a matter not only of urging both Moscow and Washington to come to terms but also of being prepared to take appropriate action if the talks break down.

Siegfried Maruhn

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 1 October 1983)

WORLD AFFAIRS

Central Europe troop-cut talks, the forgotten negotiations

Mutual balanced force reduction, or troop cuts in Central Europe, is an idea that has been going the rounds for 24 years. The MBFR talks in Vienna have been under way for the past 10.

Tangible results have yet to occur for people in Europe despite talks held by Nato and Warsaw Pact countries at the Hofburg in the Austrian capital since 30 October 1973.

The troops in line for cuts are those stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg in the West and in the GDR, Poland and Czechoslovakia in the East.

They include both these countries' own armed forces and allied troops stationed there, such as British and Canadian, US and Soviet troops.

MBFR terms of reference apply only to land and air forces, not to marines, border guards or paramilitary units. The arms and equipment of such forces are not at issue either.

France is not represented at the talks, but its forces in Germany are tacitly included in the MBFR terms of reference.

The idea originated with a November 1959 proposal by Helmut Schmidt, in those days a young Social Democratic Bonn MP, for a policy aimed at establishing an arms limitation and control zone in Central Europe.

In those days it was a novel idea that broke with a taboo in post-war Europe *in viewing arms limitation in Central Europe separately from the German Question.*

It no longer linked readiness to make troop cuts with the demand for progress toward German reunification.

Useful and fascinating though the consent was, a further 14 years were to elapse until East and West by dint of joint endeavour came to terms on the legacy of the Second World War such as would pave the way for talks on arms limitation in Europe.

In other words, the political groundwork had first to be laid before talks about troop strengths could be held, including US readiness to recognise the Soviet Union as its superpower equal.

This groundwork also included a conscious decision by Bonn to come to terms with the division of Europe, and Germany, as an established fact acknowledged in treaties.

The one was laid by President Nixon and Secretary of State Kissinger, especially in the Salt talks with the Soviet Union; the other by the Ostpolitik of the Social and Free Democratic coalition in Bonn.

What then happened came as a surprise. In 1973 the Soviet Union entered the MBFR talks with aggressive, offensive political objectives, whereas the West from the outset went on to the defensive.

The Kremlin pursued three main aims: to establish that a balance already existed in the MBFR area, to prevent the Federal Republic from gaining too great a military clout by Soviet standards and to reduce the American military presence in Europe so as to loosen the ties between North America and Western Europe.

The Atlantic alliance in contrast was faced by the temptation felt by a number of Nato countries to reduce troop strengths unilaterally.

Above all, there was the danger of a unilateral reduction in the number of US troops stationed in Europe, a proposal long associated with the name of Senator Mike Mansfield.

So Nato governments used the East-West talks first and foremost as a means of enforcing discipline within the alliance.

Only secondarily were they interested in ending the troop strength superiority they felt Eastern MBFR countries enjoyed, especially the Soviet Union, and in then striking a balance at a perceptibly lower level.

This complete contrast in the two sides' negotiating positions found visible expression in the data dispute. It remains unresolved and keenly contested by arms control experts civilian and military on both sides.

According to Western estimates the Warsaw Pact has about 150,000 more men stationed in the MBFR area than it has so far admitted to.

The Kremlin with its pathological inclination toward secrecy has greatly aided those in the West who have talked in terms of troop cuts but never seriously considered coming to terms with the Russians on force reductions of any relevance for military security.

The East did not see fit to reply to the estimates submitted by the West until three years after the Vienna talks had begun.

It claimed in 1976 there were land and air forces in the Warsaw Pact countries concerned totalling 987,300 men, including 805,000 members of the land forces.

These figures differ considerably from Western estimates of East Bloc troop strengths. According to the West the Warsaw Pact has 1,163,000 men under arms in the countries in question, including 972,000 members of the land forces.

Bids to free the MBFR talks from the trammels of the data debate by means of accompanying measures have so far been to no avail.

These are mainly envisaged as advance notice of manoeuvres and limitation of their size and the like.

They are ideas borrowed from the Helsinki CSCE debate and aimed mainly at reducing mistrust, fostering political confidence-building and alleviating fears of a surprise attack.

But such ideas, put forward by the West since 1979, have failed to make headway, and unless all the signs are misleading the same fate lies in store for the latest ideas submitted by the experts.

In place of agreement on initial data they now envisage a procedure by which both sides initially reduce their troop strength to 900,000 and embark on verification.

This, it is argued, would [...] East to eliminate the su[...] which it continues to refu[...] without having owned up to [...] conference table.

It is, moreover, doubtful [...] Soviet Union would really [...] effective mode of verificatio[...] unhindered on-the-spot [...] Western military men would [...] too keen on the idea either.

Preparations will shortly [...] Stockholm for the Confe[...] Confidence-and Security[...] Measures and Disarmament [...]

It dates back to a French [...] taken up and approved by the [...] review conference in Madrid [...] itially aimed at further devel[...] confidence-building measures [...] by the terms of the 1975 He[...] cords.

These existing confidence [...] measures include voluntary pr[...] cation of major military ma[...] and the echange of manoeuv[...] vers.

They are to be joined by fur[...] sures that will no longer be [...] They are intended to be [...] binding, militarily significant [...] ifiable.

They are also to extend the [...] Europe, from the Atlantic to the [...]

Providing politicians don't [...] the field to the play instinct [...] perts, this project should hold [...] ter prospects of success than [...] talks in Vienna.

Merging the MBFR talks [...] Stockholm conference would [...] even better idea. Walther [...]

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 29 S[...])

Reagan brings new impetus to Geneva bargaining table

President Reagan, under pressure from the Bonn government, among others, has given the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles a fresh stimulus. They had been merely marking time.

His foremost and most interesting concession is that America no longer insists on establishing an on-the-spot counterweight to Soviet nuclear weapons in Europe.

Providing the Russians were to agree to a worldwide limitation and reduction in intermediate-range nuclear forces America, he said, would not seek to station missiles in Europe to strike a balance with the entire Soviet arsenal.

This formula, which it is now up to the US and Soviet negotiators in Geneva to sound out, is deliberately couched in vague terms.

It is primarily aimed at the Soviet SS-20 arsenal in Asia and intended to oblige Moscow, which has constantly refused to negotiate on its missile launching pads in Asia at Geneva.

Theoretically, President Reagan's formula even allows of a more generous interpretation. It could be taken to mean that the Soviet Union was tacitly being allowed to retain a missile advantage in Asia in return for dropping its constant clamour for the British and French missiles to be included in the Geneva talks.

America has no intention of renouncing its right to station medium-range nuclear missiles in the Far East but it does not necessarily propose to implement this right.

Does this mean Mr Reagan has pushed open a back door to compromise? Despite the latest American proposals that isn't the way it looks.

The Soviet Union has not made play with British and French missiles for their own sake; its clear aim has been to block the stationing of any new US missiles in Europe.

That is an unacceptable state of affairs for both the United States and its allies, and Mr Reagan's latest proposal leaves no doubts on this score.

So the gap between the sides' negotiating positions remains a gaping chasm. Once only, in July 1982 when the Geneva 'walk in the woods' compromise was mooted, has it looked as though Moscow wanted to allow the West to station at least a limited number of new US missiles in Western Europe.

But the Kremlin's attitude has since grown steadily tougher. *Tass*, the Soviet news agency, dismissed the Reagan proposal even before its details were formally announced as "smelling strongly of the old and hated pseudo-zero option."

Might the Geneva talks nonetheless end in compromise? Fundamental differences cannot be bridged by purely technical concessions.

There is a popular call for the world powers to show greater mobility in Geneva, but bridges are not built by moving to and fro on either side of the river.

There has been no lack of movement of this kind in Moscow, an[...] Washington either.

What America continues to [...] mething entirely different; an[...] with a political outlook th[...] make the Kremlin feel cooper[...] Washington was worthwhile.

In the past Washington ha[...] too prone to resort to strong [...] sporadic actions: wheat ship[...] spite tension, arms control [...] ban on political communication[...]

There has always been the [...] intensified arms built-up and the [...] of economic sanctions being imp[...]

These may worry Moscow [...] are hardly designed to establish [...] nimum of confidence needed to [...] de Mr Andropov and his asso[...] bank on cooperation with and [...] sions from the United States.

True, the Russians bear much [...] responsibility for shaking the [...] tions of confidence on which E[...] ties must be based.

Their all-out arms build-up [...]

Continued on page 3

The German Tribu[ne]

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH. 23 Schöne [...] Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1 Telex: 02-14733

Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander [...] English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett [...] bution Manager: Georgine Picone

Advertising rates list No. 15 — Annual subscription DM 45.

Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich [...] Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by [...] MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York [...] 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE re[...] published in cooperation with the editorial [...] leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of [...] ny. They are complete translations of the origin[...] no way abridged nor editorially redrafted.

In all correspondence please quote your [...] number which appears on the wrapper [...] asterisks, above your address

[H]OME AFFAIRS

[U]nfulfilled economic hopes dash CDU chances in State polls

[...] State elections in Hesse and Bre[...]en came as a rude awakening for [...]ellor Kohl. The SPD made gains [...] polls.

[...] results show that the voters ex[...] more of the government's economic [p]olicy. Although these were only [...]ections, they did reflect the na[...] mood. Chancellor Kohl does not [...]his.

[...] says unpopular austerity measu[...]re the main reason for the CDU's [...]mance. He does not try to put a [...] on by repeating the old truism [...] general election win is usually [...]ed by a slump in State elections.

[...] Hesse, it was no lightweight who [...]nged the caretaker Prime Minis[ter] [H]olger Börner (SPD). The challen[...]as the popular mayor of Frank[furt], [W]alter Wallmann.

[...]ar before, the CDU had also failed to topple the SPD in Hesse. Then they laid the blame on the popularity of Helmut Schmidt and sympathy over the way he had been toppled from power in Bonn. Schmidt campaigned actively in that election.

They can't blame Schmidt this time. So the result is a bitter one.

Hesse's Social Democrats used none of the national issues in their campaign. Börner was spared having to deal with any of the national problems that have aroused the public's emotions. He said nothing about the deployment of new missiles and steered clear of security issues in general.

He did not need to say anything about the nation's economic problems, unemployment, cutbacks in social welfare, and the steel, coal and shipyard crises. It is not his but Bonn's business to deal with these matters.

Issues that once caused the Hesse SPD problems such as nuclear waste processing and the extra runway for Frankfurt airport are problem no longer.

Börner was therefore able to concentrate entirely on what had become his leitmotif: to get a clear majority in the Hesse assembly (no one at the moment can claim an absolute majority of seats).

Hesse is economically better off than most other states and has been a Social Democratic bastion for 37 years.

But Börner failed. He remains the caretaker prime minister with limited powers, more or less a man on probation who has to corner majorities on each individual issue.

Wallmann, a conciliatory man, fought the contest on personalities. He did not benefit from any bonus in Bonn. The disenchantment with Bonn's austerity policy was a handicap.

He neither can build an absolute majority with the help of a coalition partner nor prevent a SPD-Green coalition, which is theoretically still possible.

The Free Democrats owe their return to the State assembly not to the voters' fascination with the liberals but to a miscalculation of the CDU.

The CDU's gave a kiss of life by urging the electorate to support the FDP. Without this the FDP would have suffered the same defeat in Hesse as in Bremen, where they were heaved out of the assembly.

But an FDP fiasco in Hesse could have shaken the very foundations of the coalition in Bonn. Wallmann's sacrifice paid off in Bonn.

But if the FDP survives below the national level only by CDU charity it will inevitably become stigmatised as a bloc party — a danger it wanted to prevent by leaving its Social Democratic coalition partner last autumn. Can the Greens' claim to being the third force still be denied? Despite the return of some of the Greens to the SPD, the new party now stands a chance of consolidating itself. This is in contrast to a decade and a half ago when the extreme rightist NPD which cornered some right wing votes at the expense of the established parties. But that spectacular successes proved a flash in the pan. It is up to the Greens to demonstrate whether, tolerated by their motley grassroots, they are capable of becoming domesticated in parliamentary terms and of respecting the system.

Until they have proved that they are not a peripheral fad but a political force to be reckoned with, nobody should regard the Greens as suitable coalition partners.

In the other Social Democratic bastion, Bremen, the election was routine. The only surprise was the extent of the faith the electorate showed in Mayor Hans Koschnik — especially in view of the fact that he has more crises than any other state leader: shipyards, steel, shipping and high unemployment that is still growing.

His gains were not due to political brilliance but to steadfastness and the matter-of-fact manner in which he presents the situation.

In any event CDU success in Bremen was always unlikely. With its Bonn power base it could have contained the Bremen crises.

But so far it has been sitting on the fence, very much like the Bonn Economic Affairs Minister, Count Lambsdorff (FDP).

The effects on Bonn — Kohl and Genscher, Brandt and Vogel — of the two state elections are something different. Neither side is safe from coming to the wrong conclusions.

The Bonn government could be tempted to use trivial marketing techniques and be guided by what pollsters assume to be public wishes.

Whatever mistakes the government made in its efforts to come up with a balanced austerity policy, this policy must be continued in principle.



A jubilant Börner after the Hesse election. (Photo: dpa)

It is not this but another, more important, weakness that an analysis of Kohl's policy shows: lack of leadership.

The Chancellor took office without a great stock of ideas. All he brought was a pragmatic work concept.

Helmut Kohl made a point of maintaining continuity in his foreign policy and his *Deutschlandpolitik*, which boosted his international iamge.

But there were were no sweeping vistas in his austerity policy, the cutbacks in social security and his economic concepts that were supposed to have been the essence of the vaunted about-turn.

The public disputes over the right approach between the top men of the coalition fueled the impression of Kohl's indecisiveness and detracted from his image.

The disappointment with Kohl is most noticeable within his own party and its sympathisers.

Much of what he does differs from former Chancellor Schmidt's policy only in dosage and the manner of presentation.

Schmidt also wanted to cut back on social benefits but was unable to push this through his own party.

A balance sheet of Kohl's policy shows that it is most effective in internal security where Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann (CSU) reigns supreme,

But in that field, the conservatives satisfy only their own followers. They don't win sympathy from any outsiders.

With it all, Kohl's position is undisputed. There is no rival in sight.

Unlike the CDU, the SPD leadership can draw encouragement from the outcome of the two state elections.

But it should realise that the conditions that earned Börner his success cannot be applied to the national SPD, where the very problems that were important in Hesse play a major role: security, economic and social policy. It is here that the Social Democrats have failed to correct the diffuse image that has existed since their national election defeat in March.

Nothing will change as long as Party Chairman Willy Brandt and parliamentary leader Hans-Jochen Vogel give priority to keeping the party together rather than drafting a clear policy that could put them back in Bonn.

The Hesse election outcome was a bitter lesson for the Kohl-Genscher coalition and an unmerited encouragement for the Social Democrats.

But this has in no way changed national perspectives. The danger lies in the possibility that the country's two major parties will draw wrong conclusions from the Hesse election — one year after the change in Bonn. *Kurt Becker*

(Die Zeit, 30 September 1983)

[...]n mayor Koschnik in fighting [...] after victory. (Photo: Werek)

Continued from page 2

[...], their invasion of Afghanistan, [...] pressure on Poland and the combi[nation] of incompetence and callousness [...] showed in shooting down the Ko[rean] jumbo jet have weighed heavily on [...]ons.

[...] that by no means justifies the [...] in responding with a lack of con[...] of its own.

[...] Reagan was civil and courteous at [the] UN General Assembly, and Euro[...] have much to be grateful to him [o]n this count.

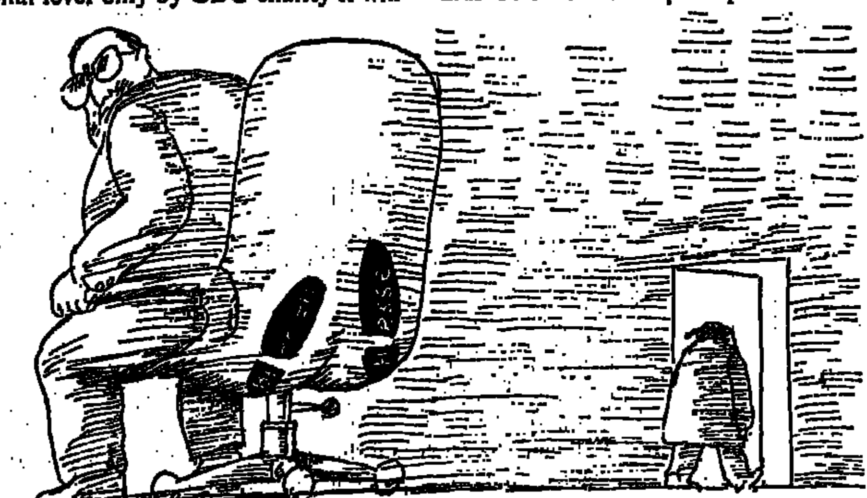
[...] civility is merely a mode of behaviour and no substitute for political [subst]ance. It doesn't amount to a politi[cal f]ramework within which the Soviet [lead]ers might be prepared to reconsider [and] come to terms.

[If] all you expect of the Geneva talks [is an] opportunity of blaming the Soviet [Uni]on for failure of the negotiations [...] you might well make do with the [comb]ination of civility and technical [readi]ness to reach a compromise.

[Bu]t if you are reluctant to abandon [...] of a negotiated settlement you [...] hold forth the prospect of it being [pol]itically worth Moscow's while to [jum]p over its own shadow for once.

Christoph Bertram

(Die Zeit, 30 September 1983)



(Cartoon: Murschetz/Die Zeit)

■ GERMANY

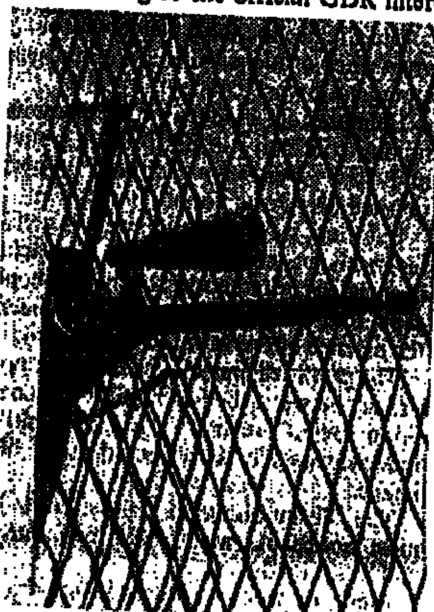
Some self-shooting devices removed from border zone

East Germany has begun to dismantle some of the 54,000 automatic shooting devices along the intra-German border. But what remains is still a near impenetrable system of minefields and watchtowers.

This process, however, is going hand in hand with a propaganda attempt to give the Wall an element of respectability.

Using a brochure with a spider as cover picture, the GDR has now launched a massive drive to justify the Wall and the death strip along the 1,378.1km border that separates the two Germanies.

According to the official GDR inter-



The SM 70 automatic shooting device as used on the border.

pretation, the flight of more than one million of its citizens before 13 August 1961 (when the Wall was built) and of close to 200,000 who have braved the minefields and the automatic shooting devices since then was the work of "gangsters and bounty hunters."

Since 1945, the brochure says, these people have sowed uncertainty among the population and stuck the "label of human tragedy" on escapees, "wrapping the whole thing in the glossy paper of human rights hypocrisy."

The current campaign is not the first attempt by East Berlin to criminalise the mass exodus from Germany to Germany.

In 1944, when the victorious Allied forces decided to divide the German Reich into occupation zones, they drew the borders between the British and American zones on the one hand and the Soviet zone on the other along the old provincial border lines.

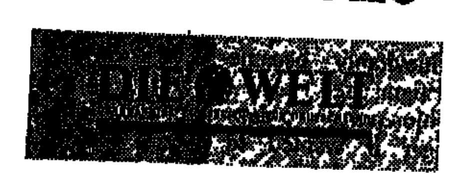
The guard duty along the demarcation lines originally rested with the occupying powers.

There is no known instance of Soviet troops having deliberately shot Germans who illegally crossed the demarcation line.

After firing warning shots, the guards arrested people, detained them for a few hours or days in the basement of the local military headquarters.

This changed from one moment to the next when the Soviets turned the guard functions over to the "armed officials" of the GDR, which was founded in 1949.

This was when the systematic sealing off of the East German people from the West began.



GDR parlance reflected the developments along the intra-German border in the terminology used for people moving between East and West. The border crossers of the immediate post-war years became "barrier crashers" and, later, "tunnel diggers" — people who used bravado and ingenuity in their bid to escape.

Since it began building the Wall in 1961, East Berlin has established a death strip along the entire border separating it from West Germany.

The past 22 years have seen the creation of a formidable security system that has been technically updated from year to year. The idea behind it was to prevent East Germans from voting with their feet.

As of 30 June 1983, this system consisted of a heavy metal fence along 1,281.8 kilometres, a double barbed wire fence along 47.7 kilometres, a protective strip with electric alarm devices that are triggered by touching them along 1,160.8 kilometres, 190.1 kilometres of minefields and 428.5 kilometres studded with 54,000 automatic shooting devices of the SM70 and NS501 type.

Each of these devices packs 110 sharp-edged, cube-shaped projectiles with dumdum properties.

This means that anybody hit by these projectiles is likely to sustain irreparable injuries, as shown by the records of West German surgeons who attended to victims.

Not only does the device violate the human rights conventions signed by the GDR (UN human rights provisions and the Helsinki Final Act). It also violates international law.

Like the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic is a legal successor of the Reich, which signed the Hague Convention barring the use of dumdum ammunition.

East Berlin has never withdrawn from the Convention, which was signed in 1899 and 1901.

In addition, 29.5 kilometres of the border has concrete barrier walls (the figure applies only to the immediate vicinity of the border and not to the barriers further inland). There are 831.8 kilometres of ditches to prevent vehicles from passing. Of these, 589.2 kilometres are fortified.

There are 1,335.5 kilometres of roads for the border guard vehicles, of which 1,278.6 kilometres are fortified.

There are light-barriers along 84.6 kilometres and dog runs for the border guards' 1,131 dogs. There are 794 pillboxes/trenches, of which 587 are made of concrete.

The border has 669 concrete watchtowers, 55 of wood or steel, plus 35 observation posts.

Escapers who have been lucky enough to pass this formidable security system still have to get through the so-called "Stalin lawn" immediately behind the metal fence. This consists of steel mats three metres wide studded with 10 to 20cm steel spikes.

On top of all this, the hinterland (about 500 metres before getting to the actual demarcation line) has its own protective barbed wire fence. And then there is a zone about four to five kilometres from the border with electric alarm devices and booby traps of various kinds.

The security system around West Berlin encompasses 165.7 kilo[...] this, 110.8 kilometres consis[...] made of concrete blocks 3.[...] high. This is supported by s[...] tems similar to those along [...] the border.

Of the 191,559 people r[...] refugees from 13 August 1961 [...] 1983, 38,515 were described [...] crashers who put their lives [...] in getting through the death [...] were injured in the process [...] them were 2,768 members of [...] armed forces, mostly border [...]

One hundred and eighty-[...] ties were recorded by the [...] Work Group in West Berlin. [...] tral Recording Centre in Salz[...] 109 fatalities on its register.

The intra-German border [...] ring around Berlin are guarded [...] 50,000 members of the border [...] The Soviet Military Admi[...] began establishing these uni[...] back as 1 December 1946.

One border brigade opera[...] the Baltic coast (301km). Small[...] are stationed along the border [...] Poland and Czechoslovakia.

These troops (they were called [...] police in the late 1940s) were [...] under the command of the East [...] Interior Ministry. At certain [...] operated under the Ministry for [...] Security. They were renamed [...] troops after 13 August 1961 and [...] under the command of the Defe[...] nistry.

In 1974, they were awarded [...] status within the "National [...] Army".

Some of the border troops are [...] draftees who are hand-picked [...] duty and undergo an additional [...] ing before being assigned to act[...] der duty.

This selection process is inte[...] reduce the danger of escapes [...] border guards to a minimum.

The first prerequisite is proof [...] border guard has no close relati[...] West. Men on patrol must change [...] ners all the time so that no two [...] will do patrol duty together more [...] once. The guards have orders [...] to prevent escape attempts by [...] comrades.

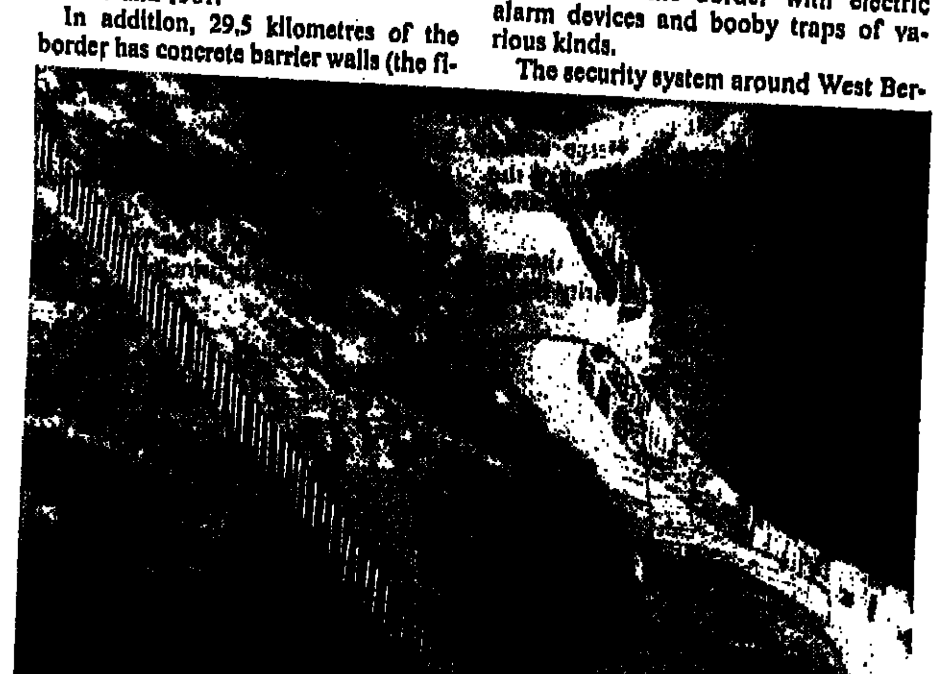
The technically perfected system [...]

Continued on page 7



Border layout: 1. Warning notice 2. Warning notice. 3. Border path marked by stones. 4. [...] Border column about 1.8 metres high (about 5ft 10in). 6. Cleared strips of varying widths. 7. [...] wire net fencing about 2.4 metres high (about 7ft 10 in). 8. Single row of wire net fence [...] high (about 10ft 6in) with automatic self-shooting device. 9. Access road for vehicles 10. [...] curity strip. 11. Workmen's path. 12. Concrete watchtower. 13. Concrete watchtower with [...] Concrete observation bunker. 15. Light obstacle. 16. Border contact/communications point [...] area. 18. Controlled checkpoint. 19. Concrete wall with observation points (about 3.3 metres [...] 10in). 20. Protective strip with electrical and sound warning installations (Schematic representation)

(Diagram: Bonn [...])



A section of the border between the GDR and the Federal Republic. Self-shooting devices and dog patrol areas are part of the system. Note double fence at right.

(Photos: dpa)

THE THIRD WORLD

Volunteer aid service gets to grips at grass roots



Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst [...] German Development Service [...] was founded 20 years ago to [...] poor nations.

[...] was modelled on the American [...] Corps and the development aid [...] nisations of the churches. The [...] ly voluntary helpers were meant to [...] lement official development aid.

[...] ce then more than 6,500 develop[...] helpers with more than 100 speci[...] vocational skills have worked over[...] for two or more years.

[...] me 850 people are working now in [...] countries of Africa, Asia and Latin [...] rica and in the UN volunteer pro[...] mme.

DED accepts only applicants who [...] completed their vocational train[...]. It gives preference to those who [...] already had some working expe[...]ce. In this way, it differs from the [...]erican peace corps.

Development aid work calls for much [...]lism. Work in the poorest countries [...]ils hardship, adjustment and coping [...] unexpected difficulties.

The pay is very low by the standards [...] affluent country like Germany. [...]orkers receive DM995 a month and in [...]e cases a cost of living allowance.

The government provides DM2,500 [...]ards cost of equipment and an allo[...]ce on the return home, to help out [...]re employment in found.

Many of the returnees have remained [...]mployed for a long time after their [...], despite their varied skills and [...]erience.

DED is run by the government and [...]ch organisations. Bonn provides [...] cash.

It puts particular emphasis on social[...] and economically disadvantaged [...]ps. It hopes Germany's society will [...] enriched through the experience the [...]pers gather.

These principles once caused politi[...] dispute because of fears that the [...]kers would turn into activists bent [...] reforming their own society.

When DED was founded, Bonn did [...] share President Kennedy's view that this type of peace service should help reform society at home.

The "New Frontier" Kennedy envisaged at the time was not a German objective in the 1960s.

During the founding ceremony of DED, the then Chancellor Konrad Adenauer is said to have asked the person sitting next to him: "Would you send your child to such a place?"

Germany's bureaucracy saw no point in using public funds to finance a movement whose members would later sow unrest in their own country.

Here is what the Bonn Foreign office is said to have thought: "Helped by German embassies and missions abroad, young idealists are to go to developing countries of all places to look for Romanticism's Blue Flower."

This shows that the government feared that returning development helpers could turn into a politically irritating group of peaceful revolutionaries who could use their personal experiences in the developing countries to meddle in official development policy.

DED's stance, on the other hand, was that the development helpers would contribute towards the learning process of German society and bring about a development policy that would be geared to the interests of the people in the Third World and respect their values.

Its aim, the argument went, was not to provide charity but to cooperate on a partnership basis without wanting to graft European ideas on to Third World societies.

Cultures and customs of the Third World peoples had to be respected.

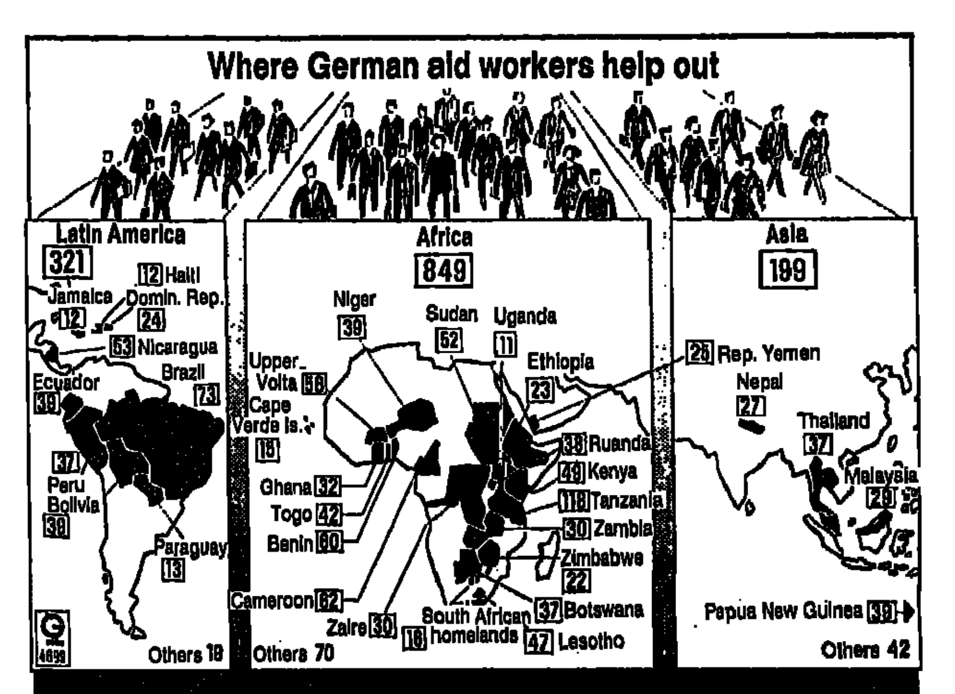
This has repeatedly led to difficulties. In Islamic countries, for example, where female development helpers were assigned tasks that did not fit Islamic ideas of a woman's role in society.

It has often proved very difficult to overcome problems tactfully. DED has made a point of steering clear of a paternalistic attitude.

In taking stock of the past 20 years, DED is realistic enough to accept the fact that it has not achieved a grand partnership between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Third World. But it has imparted some impetus to development there.

Günter De Thier

(Rheinische Post, 3 September 1983)



EEC nations agree to change Lomé Convention priorities

EEC nations have agreed to change development aid priorities. The decision was made at a meeting in Berlin between the EEC and nations of ACP (African, Caribbean, Pacific).

The meeting, of the consultative assembly of the EEC-ACP, was to prepare the ground for the third Lomé Convention negotiations this month in Luxembourg.

The Lomé Convention governs eco-



nomic relations between the EEC and nations in Africa, the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean.

Sixty three ACP countries were represented by 252 delegates at the Berlin meeting, held in the Berlin Reichstag.

The European Community will enter the Luxembourg negotiations with the avowed intention to pay more attention than hitherto to the individual needs of the ACP countries and to concentrate Community aid on agriculture and food production.

No concrete figures as to the amount of money to be provided by the EEC during the five-year period of Lomé III (1985 to 1990) were given in Berlin.

There was heated debate over the recommendation by one EEC group that the Lomé II budget of DM14bn be doubled.

While Euro-MP Katharina Focke (SPD) called for more and better development aid, the president pof the ACP-EC conference, Pieter Dankert of the Netherlands, said that he could not see aid being being increased, because national budgets were under pressure.

Since the Lomé Convention that was first signed in 1976 and extended in 1981 provided only for financial aid without defining objectives, the EEC representatives now want to draft political concepts in a bid to establish a permanent "policy dialogue" with the ACP countries, says German Euro-MP Rudolf Luster (CDU).

The two Lomé Conventions so far have provided the ACP countries with stable export earnings from agricultural commodities and minerals and ensured their access to EEC market (no tariffs are charged on 95 per cent of ACP exports).

But some delegates said that the wish more farm imports to the EEC for be balanced by the fact that Spain and Portugal are to join. This would cause some strain over agriculture.

F. Diedrichs

(Die Welt, 24 September 1983)

■ FINANCE

New facts of life force change in IMF role

All the talk at the International Monetary Fund conference in Washington was not for the layman. The financial technicalities were too involved for that.

But as cabinet ministers, central bank heads and other high-powered experts swapped their unintelligibilities, they themselves missed the point.

It must have amused former German economics minister Karl Schiller, whose international reputation in the field (he is a former head of the Club of Ten) makes him a welcome guest at conferences such as these.

For the meeting talked about the "enlarged access" to IMF resources to the point where it forgot to discuss new allocations of the IMF's artificial money, the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

But there is a certain American strategy behind this. The IMF, which about a dozen years ago had to abolish its system of fixed exchange rates, losing its true raison d'etre in the process, has progressively become an instrument with which to avert failure to pay debts.

Whenever and wherever financial disaster looms, the fund is expected to — and does — act as the fire brigade.

Last year, it bailed out oil-rich Mexico with the help of the industrial countries' declining foreign exchange reserves. Now, it is Brazil that is crying for help.

Debtors rely on the IMF for a bail-out, *but the fund depends on the industrial nations for funds.*

When central banks of industrial countries accept SDRs this waters down their foreign exchange reserves. In essence it means an additional loan to the fund.

But the IMF is in no position to act as the central bank for its 146 member nations.

It was founded in July 1944, as a means of warding off off economic and financial calamities like those of the early 1930s and to ensure stable exchange rates.

The fact that the Americans have adopted a tougher stance than the Europeans and that they are for the moment putting some sand in the international debt machinery is not purely a negative trend.

With the delay in approving the eighth increase in contributions, (which is due more to Congress than to the US Administration) and the sophisticated mathematics of the "enlarged access", the Americans signalled caution for the future.

Those who, like the commercial banks that are worried about the repayment of their loans, now oppose this tough stance should remember how much criticism there was earlier when the IMF was, rightly, accused of promoting world-wide inflation and hence unemployment.

It is true that the Americans lack the ability to differentiate. On the one hand they are considering refinancing several hundred billion dollars worth of unpaid Latin American debts for the sake of their own commercial banks. On the other they haggle with the World Bank (which is concerned with the poorest countries) over whether the member nations should boost its lending resources by US$8.8bn or US$12 bn.

The whole thing is rather ridiculous, and in any event the American signal has come too late.

The world has allowed the debt crisis to arise, and the relatively easy access to IMF funds is one of the reasons for the fact that 40 countries have declared themselves insolvent.

Rescheduling operations have become fashionable in an era when many people would like to revert to the gold standard as a regulatory mechanism against the constantly rising money supply.

But now matter how one twists and turns things: nothing goes anymore without the IMF (which its spiritual father, John Maynard Keynes, never wanted to become an auxiliary economic government for 40 rescheduling candidates).

The West's financial system was strong enough two years ago to cope with Poland's debt. But this involved a maximum of US$28bn. But will it also be able to cope with Brazil's US$90bn and the US$20bn to US$40bn each of the larger Latin American countries?

It will probably have to cope. A package deal for Brazil is already being prepared.

The more a debtor owes the stronger his position. Nobody can afford to let such a country down — especially in view of the possibility that the country in debt will simply refuse to honour its debts, a distinct possibility in the case of Brazil.

All that can be done is to gain time. But the hopes that are pinned on this extra time are as surprising as the fact that top international banks have lent their depositors' money to shaky customers.

The economic upturn that is clearly in evidence now will rectify many problems, some say.

Maybe it will. But considering the size of the debts, such a hope seems naive.

Still, nobody will plunge into an abyss; and that is all that counts — for the moment.

Franz Thoma
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 September 1983)

Let us export, says Central America banker

Central Amerian countries will need 25 billion US dollars aid between now and 1990 to maintain per head income at the levels of 1980, says a Latin American banker.

Carlos Manuel Castillo, president of Costa Rica's central bank, was addressing a meeting in Brussels of European and Central American economists.

Another speaker Antonio Ortiz Mena, said that Europe, North America and Japan should all open their markets to the region. This would help cut trade deficits. Ortiz is president of the Inter-american Development Bank (IDB).

The central question at the meeting was how far Western industrial nations would go in helping Central American countries economically and structurally.

Castillo said one billion dollars was needed immediately, a third to service debts, a third to help industry and the rest to develop infrastructure.

The meeting was instigated by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. There were also delegates from the USA, Canada, Japan, Spain, Portugal, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund sent observers.

IDB presented some projects drafted by them in conjunction with the World Bank and the IMF focus was on health, education and agriculture.

Mena said massive international support was needed if these plans were intended to revitalise the various national economies.

The united stand in Brussels of the six Central American countries — which otherwise pursue conflicting policies - showed their determination to join forces in bringing about economic and social progress.

Mena, who said that his bank would continue to offer its services as a co-ordinating and clearing institution, urged the immediate neighbours of the six Central American countries and Europe, North America and Japan to help improve the trade deficits of the Central American nations by opening their markets.

It seems that the most hopes are pinned on the European nations and it was no coincidence that Mena stressed that the Common Central American Market was established at the same time as the EEC. Yet so far it had achieved little.

He urged Europe to provide major impetus to get the Common Central American Market off the ground.

Josephus Loeff, deputy director-general for foreign relations at the Brussels Commission, called cooperation with Central America a focal point of the EEC's development policy.

He said that about half of the Community's aid for Latin America went to Central America.

The EEC Council of Ministers had increased the Community's aid for Central America by DM65m to DM250m in 1982.

The emphasis is on agricultural development and structural reforms, and efforts to improve the current account balances, he said.

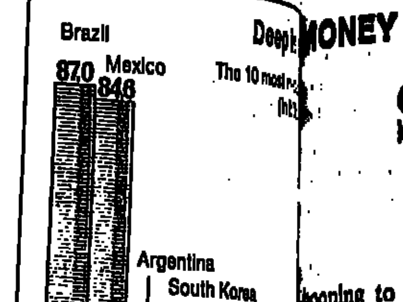
He dampened excessive Latin American expectations by pointing to the Community's strained budget and to the fact that international aid could never amount to more than help towards self-help.

The concrete result of the Brussels meeting was to agree on holding additional meetings on expert levels when practical project possibilities are to be evaluated.

Financing issues within an IMF framework was to have been discussed at the annual IMF meeting in Washington.

Another meeting is to be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, next March at the latest in conjunction with the governors' meeting of the Interamerican Development Bank.

Wolf-Dietrich Stahnke
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 September 1983)



Stoltenberg defence of loan terms

Frankfurter Rundschau

The tough terms the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ... ches to loans to developing ... should not be misinterpreted ... ge, according to the Bonn govern...

Bonn Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg says that the IMF ... that are much criticised in the ... World are meant to produce ... tionary economic growth.

Stoltenberg, speaking at the conference in Washington, ... against excessive pessimism over World indebtedness. Lower ... rates world-wide, the improved ... situation and the general upturn ... help adjustment.

He emphasised his concern ... US budget deficits. These ... main reason for high interest ... over the world.

He also called for markets ... opened up so developing ... could export to meet their debt ... ing.

On the much disputed issue ... creased IMF credit facilities for ... tries in fianancial trouble, Stoltenberg said that he regarded the "enlarged access" as justified once the already ... cided increase of quotas for 19... ward boosts the deposits of the ... countries, thus increasing the ... lending resources.

In addition, the IMF would ... to fall back on the funds provided ... the ten leading industrial nations ... the General Credit Agreement ... funds have been raised from US$... US$18.5bn.

The US Congress still opposes the ... tification of the contribution ... and this means that additional ... facilities provided for the fund by ... nancially strong countries must ... made to enable the IMF to meet ... commitments to the weaker nations.

Stoltenberg called on the other ... cially strong countries to give full ... port to the IMF in order to maintain ... ternational faith in the IMF's ... capability. He did not mention the ... by name.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 September 1983)

MONEY

Snooping for credit information becomes a big business

...ooping to find out private information about people's financial ... is becoming a big business. About ...00 German firms use credit information agencies to get information.

...yone who applies for a loan is ...ly screened by one of the big ...ganisations. It doesn't matter whether the applicant is a businessman or a ... person. They all go through the ...

... some cases, the firms use "field ...ers" to snoop by questioning ...bours. There have been allegations ...estapo tactics".

...o of the biggest organisations are ...fa *(Schutzgemeinschaft für allgemeine Kreditsicherung)* and *Verband Vereine Creditreform e. V.*

...he data banks of the Wiesbaden...d *Schufa* with its branches scattered all over the country contain information on more than 20 million people (al... every German household) "but it ...d just as well be 23 or 24 million," ...ne member of the management puts ...

...ll consumer loans of up to ...50,000 are screened by *Schufa*.

...e of the main sources of data is ...k accounts. When opening an ac...nt, bank customers usually have to ... a statement to the effect that relevant information may be forwarded to ...ufa.



Schufa, founded in Berlin in 1927, also has access to customers' accounts with mail order firms and department stores.

Access to *Schufa* information is based on reciprocity, meaning that companies that use *Schufa* must also feed it information on their customers.

Businesses are the target of inquires also. *Schufa* and its fellow agencies have had a seven per cent rise in inquiries this year.

Another agency, *Schimmelpfeng GmbH* of Frankfurt, says it is Europe's largest.

It says inquiries about businesses are also an the increase because during recession, businesses need more information on other businesses.

"Our economy with its 15,900 insolvencies, falling profits and stagnating sales in 1982 prompted a growing number of small companies to resort to this type of information.

"When liquidity is strained unpaid bills can easily bust a business. It is above all the smaller firms that suffer huge interest losses due to customers who drag their feet when it comes to paying their bills."

Schimmelpfeng which has wholly owned subsidiaries in Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark and employs 1,500 people, had a growth rate of 11.3 per cent in 1982. Business in the first half of 1983 rose another eight per cent.

Schimmelpfeng's scenario for the future: "New information services and the use of modern technology hold the promise of a large number of new customers. Swift access to credit information — for instance through videotext — creates new markets.

The Neuss-based *Verband der Vereine Creditreform e. V.* already answers five million credit inquiries a year.

The organisation, founded under the name of *Verein Barzahlung* in 1879, has 107 branches with 80,000 firms as members.

The Nuremberg branch alone has more than 2,000 members who pay an average of DM35 to DM40 per information. There is a discount for quantity.

Creditreform, which also has a collection agency, had a total turnover of DM151.88m in 1982, up 11.9 per cent against the previous year.

The credit information section employs 1,414 people, of whom 90 work at the Nuremberg branch.

Every new staff member undergoes a six to nine-month training period. This applies particularly to field workers who interview companies and are *Creditreform's* most important source of information.

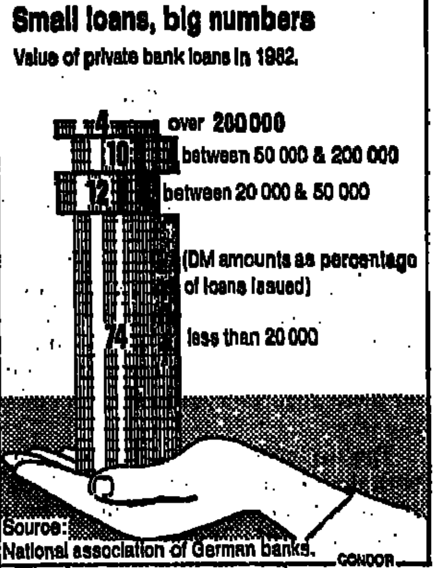
Many companies quite willingly permit *Creditreform* to look at their balance sheets. But, as one organisation employee puts it, "there are always some who have tall tales to dish out."

As a result, the credit information agencies resort to methods less direct than asking a company for information about itself.

Field workers interview suppliers, business partners and neighbours. There is nothing the victims of this snooping can do because the courts consider this practice legitimate.

Another source of information is the companies register. Every company on record goes into the credit information data banks. The Nuremberg branch of *Creditreform* has two to three employees whose only job is to update this sort of information.

Asked about other sources of information, a *Creditreform* spokesman says: "We must see what the possibilities are in each individual case."



One of these possibilities is to ask the person's employer. Another source of information is government authorities, but there are problems with data abuse regulations.

Critics of the credit information system also point to the invasion of privacy by data abuse, saying that the catchphrase "man of glass" has long been a reality.

Some point to the fact that much of that which the opponents of the census and the new ID card are trying to prevent has been a general practice in the credit information business for years.

But the business operates within the law. The federal act governing the protection of personal data permits the "storing of these data providing there is no reason to assume that this invades the legally protected privacy of the person concerned."

Section 34 offers a bit of balm. It reads: "The person concerned can demand to see all data stored about him." Section 35 states: "Incorrect personal data must be rectified. They may not be divulged if the person concerned denies their correctness and if this can be neither proved nor disproved."

The statement regarding *Schufa* bank customers now have to sign provides the address of the local branch of the organisation, where the customer can demand access to data stored about him.

The question as to liability in case of wrong information is still unclarified.

It will never be known how many businessmen were unable to obtain needed supplies due to wrong information, how many consumers were denied a bank loan and how many job applicants were turned down (some personnel departments cooperate with *Schufa* on a reciprocity basis).

Wolfgang Mayer
(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 10 September 1983)

Changes along the border

Continued from page 4

political, ideological and psychological brainwashing of the border troops has evidently not been enough for the East Berlin leadership.

It has become known that the research and development departments of the Zeiss works in Jena and the Technical University in Dresden have been working for the past five years on a new "security and defence system" to prevent sabotage by East Germany's own population against what in East German official parlance is called the "anti-fascist bulwark."

A laser system that responds only to the human body is to be introduced into the already formidable intra-German border.

It is still unknown whether this is to be used as a mere alarm system or whether it will be equipped to kill.

The border guards are still under orders to "detect, arrest and if necessary destroy border violators, be it with or without the help of technology."

And they are still under orders to "hit the target with the first shot."

Werner Kahl and Ingo Urban
(Die Welt, 29 September 1983)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Questioning Bonn sovereignty over missiles not valid argument

A new line of argument has been worming its way into political discussion. It makes the claim that the Federal Republic is not a sovereign state because foreign troops are still stationed there almost 40 years after the end of the war.

The argument is used in connection with the planned deployment of American medium-range missiles in the Federal Republic of this year.

Such a move, the argument implies, is only possible because West Germans are not the real masters in their own house.

There is a mood of reproach about such criticism. The question is: who is being reproached?

To begin with, those German politicians and members of the older generation who keep on behaving as if West Germany has equal rights among its western allies.

Sharp criticism is also levelled against those in Bonn who, willingly or unwillingly, have jumped to "orders" from Washington.

There is disparagement for the Chancellor and his ministers, the party leaders and all those who give themselves airs. In reality, it is maintained, they are no better than the marionettes in a Latin American banana republic, a term which has already been used.

However, there is more to the accusations than this.

It becomes clear that the criticism is not directed against Britain or France, even though these countries have the same rights in West Germany as the United States.

The critics have trained their sights on the USA.

The Americans are claimed to be wanting to start a war in Europe (such claims have even been heard in Washington). To this end, they are taking advantage of the fact that they have a free hand to do as they please in the "occupation zone" West Germany.

There is also an air of self-pity about this line of argument, the vague notion that everything would change for the better if only the Americans were driven out of the country and West Germany were to gain its full sovereignty.

Before discussion these ideas, some observations must be made.

It is true that the Federal Republic of Germany is not a completely sovereign state. It is subject to restrictions unknown to other countries.

This cannot be denied by referring to the wording of the Convention on relations between the Three Powers and the Federal Republic of Germany (1952 and 1955), where the Federal Republic is said to have "the full powers of a sovereign state in its domestic and foreign affairs."

For this agreement also contains the rights of the victorious powers in two important areas. The three powers maintain their rights and responsibilities "with regard to Berlin and Germany as a whole including the reunification of Germany and a peace treaty agreement" and "with regard to the stationing of forces in germany."

Such rights are not therefore based on the right of the victor but on a convention.

The West German government and parliament at the time agreed to this



convention with a clear conscience. Since then, no government in Bonn and none of the political parties have claimed that this agreement has been an unendurable shackle on West Germany.

It has been and remains in our interests for the victorious powers to reserve such rights. This becomes particularly clear in West Berlin, where there would long since have been Communist rule had there been no western protection.

It also lies in Federal German interests that the United States maintains a counterbalance in Germany, as it does in other countries, to the overwhelming might of the Soviet Union.

Isn't this worth accepting certain limitations to out sovereignty? After all, the degree of sovereignty lost is not too much.

Who could maintain that the Germany in this part of Germany are gagged and bound, groaning under the jackboots of American soldiers, unable to open their mouths?

The ability to freely express aggressive anti-American criticism shows how little our daily freedom is infringed by American troops.

The lot of out compatriots in the eastern part of Germany is unenviable. To let off steam against the Soviet Union in public means risking personal freedom including loss of one's job.

Behind the fashionable protests against the limitation of sovereignty we discover an old-fashioned idea of the state.

Is the fact that the West German government and the West German parliament are bound to certain international regulations and are thus unable to do just as they please so incompatible with out national dignity?

We have already deliberately relinquished, certain rights of somereignty by joining the European Community, for example.

This decision has had much greater implications for our everyday lives than the rights reserved by the victorious powers. Yet no-one would claim that being a member of the European Community is incompatible with out national dignity.

It is also an odd thing th[…] moan about the state's l[…] reignty are the same peopl[…] give a damn about the stat[…]

The accusation of the la[…] reignty is mainly made by p[…] porting the Greens and the p[…] ment.

Rumours are already [...] neighbouring western count[…] new "left-wing nationalism" […] rise in West Germany. This is […] concern in the United States […] in Europe.

In reality, there is no tr[…] argument that the Americans […] deploy missiles here on accou[…] status as "occupation power".

The Americans didn't f[…] missiles on to Europe. The E[…] asked for them. In fact, for […] the Americans were reluctan[…] concede to the demands.

What is more, the missiles [...] be forced upon us against the[…] politicians responsible.

The West German governm[…] the West German parliament h[…] ed to the deployment of missile[…] is no agreement at the Geneva […] ment talks.

If the missiles are stationed, [...] not be the result of any limi[…] reignty, but the consequence o[…] liance decision in which the p[…] gans of the Federal Republic o[…] ny were fully involved.

Wolfgang […]

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 24 Sept[…])

Ten judicious years at the United Nations

The decision ten years ago by the Federal Republic of Germany to join the United Nations was the result of the inner-German situation.

A German membership of the United Nations was impossible until relations had been established between the Federal Republic and the GDR.

Although Bonn had been involved in the activities of the UN's special organisations as well as its subsidary and economic committees, and had thus acquired an observer status at the UN headquarters in New York, any attempt to become a member of the organisation would have been blocked by a Soviet Union veto on the Security Council.

The Soviets would have insisted on the membership of the other German state.

The establishment of relations between the two German states during the Brandt/Scheel era paved the way for UN membership.

After the Basic Treaty was signed between the Federal Republic and the GDR, Egon Bahr and Michael Kohl began discussion on the simultaneous applications to be filed for membership of the United Nations.

All that was then needed was the official seal of approval by the Four Powers, who saw their function of Allied Control Council "untouched in any way" by German UN membership.

The two German states were unanimously accepted as members of the United Nations via acclamation in the General Assembly on September 18, 1973.

Former Chancellor Willy Brandt's first line during his inaugural speech before the UN General Assembly: "My people live in two states and does not cease to see itself as one nation."

At the same time he gave the assurance that the Federal Republic of Germany would not use the United Nations as a "Wailing Wall for German interests."

The West German UN mission has kept to this resolve during the past ten years.

It has been very careful not to burden the international organisation with inner-German disputes.

The Bonn representatives have shown great restraint in all strictly political activities.

It has concentrated on economic, social and humanitarian fields, development aid and environmental protection.

The initiatives taken by the West Germany in the UN have mainly been humanitarian.

Its greatest success is regarded as the adoption of a United Nations Convention on the Taking of Hostages in December 1979. The West German UN representatives had worked on this convention for four years.

During these years the Bonn mission often discovered how easily initiatives on humanitarian issues can find themselves entangled in emotionally-charged areas of conflict in such a multinational forum.

The same applies to Bonn initiatives on the abolition or restriction of the death penalty, which was referred to by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in New York three years ago.

A sign of the increasing importance attached to West Germany within the international organisation was its election to the Security Council during the 1977/1978 session.

The GDR was put forward as representative country by the Soviet bloc countries three years later and also voted or to the Security Council.

In September 1980, ambass[…] diger von Wechmar became [...] West German diplomat to the […] presidency of the UN Genera[…] bly.

Although the Federal Rep[…] only the 12th largest of the 15[…] states, it moves up to fourth p[…] terms of financial contribution[…] makes its membership all the m[…] portant.

During the 1982-1983 […] period the Federal Republic acc[…] for 8.54 per cent of the UN bu[…] 1981 the figure was DM 134,42[…]

The size of this payment is d[…] fact that almost half of the mem[…] tes contribute only the minimum […] 0.01 per cent.

The German contribution o[…] the substantial payments for reli[…] nisations and special United N[…] programmes.

Admittedly, when former […] secretary-general Janvier Pérez de […] lar visited Bonn this summer and […] ed to "West Germany's most […] contribution" he did not merel[…] the financial aspect in mind.

He praised above all the Ge[…] contribution to the North-South […] gue, its efforts to help solve the […] blems between industrialised and […] loping countries.

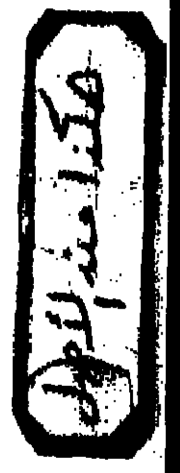
In this respect, the two so[…] Brandt Papers compiled by fo[…] Chancellor Willy Brandt repres[…] valuable and realistic contributions.

In the long run, the activities of […] United Nations will focus on this […] gue rather than on regional conflicts […] success is a question of survival […] many peoples of the world.

The Federal Republic of Ge[…] will have an important say in this […] ing and increasingly urgent dialogue.

Sabina Lietz[…]

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Z[…] für Deutschland, 17 Septem[…])



[R]ESEARCH

[O]rbital trials, rocketing [t]ribulations

[S]üddeutsche Zeitung

[…] Munich-based Orbital-Trans[…]rt- und Raketen-Aktiengesells[…] (Otrag) which bound itself to si[…] for two years following political [...]ind, has broken this silence with [...]ening roar.

[Th]is time, however, a 5.8-metre long […] module with two payload contai[…] on board did not take off in Zaire [or Li]bya as used to be the case.

[Th]e company chose the *Esrange* [laun]ching pad of the European Space […] Association, ESA, to the north of [the S]wedish town of Kiruna, about 300 [kilom]etres from the North Cape.

[Th]is means a surprising change for [a] political bogeyman, which has in[…]d making the production weapon […] available to such controversial […]es as that of Mobutu or Gadaffy.

[Th]e transformation into a partner to [Euro]pean space research did not take [plac]e from one day to the next.

[If r]ocket constructor Lutz T. Kayser [of] Stuttgart had not stepped down as [man]aging director at Otrag, the new […]ch wouldn't have been possible at […]

[Al]though he was a pupil of the space […] professor Eugen Sänger, and had [devel]oped the ideas for the rocket mu[…] construction system, he had alrea[dy d]istributed the spoils before the time [was r]ife.

[Th]is systems enables a more cost-ef[fecti]ve transportation of satellites and [other] payloads into the Earth's orbit.

[It] was the carefree and naive way in [whic]h he chose crisis-ridden trouble[…] to develop his ideas which got [him a]nd his company into deep trouble [at ho]me and abroad. This meant an end [to su]ch dubious adventurism.

[Hi]s successor, former PR man at […]g and subsequently technical direc[tor] Frank K. Wukasch, had, at least [sinc]e he took on the job as managing [direc]tor in 1980, been pursuing a different [s]trategy.

[W]ith an eye on the only European [laun]ching pad in Sweden, he saw the [chan]ce of testing the concept of bundl[ed r]ocket power units.

[W]ukasch had this to say following [the s]urprising new take-off north of the [Arcti]c Circle:

"[W]e don't intend taking the third [step] before the second, as was the case [unti]l now. We therefore felt it correct [to be]gin by using out system for high[-altit]ude research, as used in Kiruna to [inves]tigate the upper atmosphere."

[W]ukasch successfully did business [with] the ESA and with the German Re[sear]ch and Experimental Institute for [Aero]nautics and Space Travel [(DF]VLR). The latter institution is re[spon]sible for coordinating all German [spac]e research activities on behalf of [the G]erman government, a kind of German NASA as it were.

[It] was this institute which provided [laun]ching dates for Otrag in Sweden. In [the i]nterests of the local population, ["fir]ing" can only take place between 7 [a. m]. and 3 p. m.

[B]ecause of the attested rights of the Lapps to hunt in the vicinity of the launching pad, now and again firing has had to be stopped altogether.

The DFVLR has also provided the Otrag with its mobile launching platform.

Otrag has had to accept considerable restrictions and tough security regulations in Sweden compared to the freedom it had during launching activities in Zaire and Libya.

After patiently waiting three weeks for good take-off weather, a smooth take-off was recorded. The wind had swept away the fog and dark clouds to enable a troublefree countdown.

This was also a premiere for *Esrange*, the first use of a liquid-propellant rocket.

However, two-and-a-half seconds after take-off the West German scientists came in for a bad surprise.

The payload on board consisted of two experiments, one from the space travel technology department of the Technical University of Munich, the other from the Technical College in Aachen.

The Munich scientists had provided a mass spectrometer, whilst the experts from Aachen were hoping to test the transmission of a video signal from the upper ranges of the atmosphere.

Unfortunately, at a speed of one-and-a-half times the speed of sound, the flight was affected by "aerocoustic phenomena", as the scientists termed it. The return parachutes on board failed to open.

The take-off itself went, as the DFVLR technicians put it, "down the drain".

Instead of reaching the intended height of 33 kilometres, the rocket only climbed to 17 kilometres.

It was some consolation for the experts who had come from Munich that their carrier had stayed "exactly on course".

The head of Otrag, Franz Wukasch, is also hoping to stay on course now that contracts drawn up with the DFVLR permit further take-offs.

At present Munich is building one power unit each month. Ten are already ready for use.

The next objective is the testing of a two-stage rocket with a maximum load of 250 kilograms take-off weight.

This could then achieve the performance of the high altitude rocket *Skylark*, so often fired from Kiruna.

Rudolf Metzler

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 September 1983)

Germany 'behind leaders' in biotechnology

In the promising field of biotechnology research, Germany falls short of international standards.

According to an independent advisory commission appointed by the Bonn Education and Science Minister, this field is one of vital importance.

"Its great innovation potential supports expectations of new products and changes in the production of natural substances and basic chemical compounds", said the report, published in Bonn.

Seeing work in this field is still in the basic research stage, Germany still stands a chance of catching up on the leading countries, the USA, Japan, Britain and Switzerland.

Biotechnology comprises five areas:

- microbiology with the aim of discovering and breeding micro organisms with new types of physiological characteristics.
- biochemistry and molecular biology.
- genetics and genetic surgery.
- cell biology and immunobiology.
- biological process engineering.

Whereas there have already been measures to improve the situation in the field of genetic engineering, there are definite shortcomings in the fields of bioreactors and new biotechnological processes.

The tendency is too strong to forget about German performance and buy the equipment abroad.

The Commission confirmed in its report that the broad approach to biotechnological problems and the multidisciplinary cooperation necessary "are difficult to put into practice within the framework of today's university structures".

The two existing large-scale research institutions present a "most heterogeneous picture, with many outstanding work groups alongside many disappointing ones."

The Commission was "fascinated" by the research and development work conducted by the Institute for Biotechnology at the nuclear research facility in Jülich (IBT) but there was sharp criticism of the larger (350 against 100 personnel) Society for Biotechnological Research in Brunswick (GBF).

According to the report, the "current managerial and organisational structure is inappropriate" and the scope for action is "unreasonably restricted" by too many official bodies and confusion about the area of clear-cut responsibilities.

The organisational structure as practised when the SPD ran the Research Ministry in Bonn has led to a situation in which "the GBF in fact supervises itself".

Such a structure makes it impossible to run the organisation properly.

Although there is room for interdisciplinary activities in Brunswick, the institute does not take full advantage of these opportunities.

Work groups which meet the international standards, for orientation towards long-term application-oriented basic research and for cooperation between in dividual departments are "very much in a minority".

Although some groups are carrying out good basic research, there is a lack of a link to long-term appliation.

"Measured in terms of international standards, the results of many groups must be regarded as below average", said the report.

Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber has announced that he will be doing all he can to remove the backlog criticised by the commission. Joint efforts are needed by industry, science and the state.

Riesenhuber will also talk to "all those involved" about one of the cental demands made by the commission:

"In view of the limited means available, the clear lack of highly qualified scientists for managerial functions, and the efforts to boost efficiency", the report regards a merger of the various research facilities as absolutely essential.

"Taking into account the existing infrastructural framework", Brunswick should be given priority as a possible location.

However, the GFB can only be "meaningfully continued" if the organisational structure is radically changed and the "scientific responsibility of the board of directors" and the position of management strengthened.

Peter Philipps

(Die Welt, 15 September 1983)

Changing views about nuclear energy

Thirty eight per cent of the population of the EEC approve of the extension of the nuclear energy programme. They feel that nuclear power is essential to safeguard energy supplies.

However, 37 per cent strictly oppose plans and feel that nuclear energy is associated with unpleasant risks.

Ten per cent don't see why nuclear energy is necessary. The remaining 15 per cent gave no answer.

This was the result of a survey conducted for the EEC Commission in Brussels.

When the same questions were asked, in 1978, more supported nuclear energy: 44 per cent were then in favour.

However, this varies strongly from one country to the next.

Nuclear energy supporters increased in countries such as West Germany, France and Holland, i. e. in countries where there is already considerable nuclear energy. But there were fewer in the other countries.

Strongest opposition is in countries which have no nuclear energy plants: Ireland, Greece, Denmark and Luxembourg.

Only in France does the survey show an actual majority for the extension of nuclear energy (51 per cent). In technological terms, France is the most advanced country in this field. It has proportionally the most nuclear energy compared to total electricity output.

In the Federal Republic of Germany there were 37 per cent supporters (1978: 35 per cent).

The fact that now only 30 per cent of West Germans see nuclear energy as linked with unpleasant risks (1978: 45 per cent) is seen by the commission as proof that the fear of nuclear energy has become less in West Germany.

The survey, which was carried out on 9,700 representative persons in EEC countries last year, showed that were more opponents to nuclear energy among people classified as politically left-wing. There were more supporters among the "centrists" and "right-wingers".

Whether the respondents lived near to a nuclear power station or not, this had hardly any effect on the results.

When asked how the energy problems of the future can be best solved, only 10 per cent point to nuclear energy. Most EEC citizens (51 per cent) name the following "desirable solutions": the development of renewable sources of energy such as solar energy, biomass, wind and wave energy.

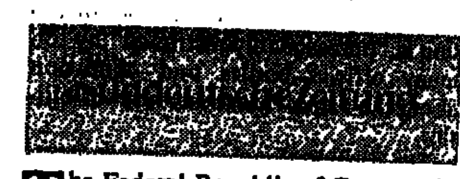
In its summary to its report, the Commission underlines that these are the least developed of all the sources of energy.

Hans-Peter Ott

(Der Tagesspiegel, 15 September 1983)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Tougher waste-disposal controls approved



The Federal Republic of Germany is probably Europe's largest producer of waste.

The Federal Cabinet has just approved tougher regulations for dealing with special waste.

Federal Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann is hoping that further parts of the amendment, which deal among other things with recycling, will also be accepted by the Cabinet before the year is out.

Special waste is defined as such waste which "depending on the nature, composition or amount" presents a "serious" danger to health, the water and the air, can burn or explode and which contains germs.

Up to now there has been no standard procedure in individual German States for disposing of special waste.

If the concentration of harmful substances is regarded as harmless, the extent of risk as acceptable, and a proper disposal as "uneconomical", the toxic substances are allowed to legally flow into the seas and rivers.

Up until the year 2024, for example, the Bayer company in Brunsbüttel is to be allowed to pour 75,000 cubic metres of industrial waste into the River Elbe every hour, without being obliged to say what is in the waste.

Mixed with sand, for example, highly toxic waste can find its way into the household waste as "solvent-content waste."

Some waste products are simply declared "economic goods" and are thus not subject to any waste disposal regulations.

One aim is to prevent the latter, at least for certain dangerous substances.

Specially equipped customs checkpoints are to be set up on the various national borders to make it easier to uncover some of the tricks of international waste disposal "tourism."

This a direct — and positive — consequence of the scandal surrounding the barrels of toxic waste from Seveso.

By introducing a "recycling law", Zimmermann hopes to prevent the waste of raw materials.

However, the reservation that such recycling must be "economically viable" may present too large a loophole for the throw-away fanatics.

The Federal government has not yet taken up suggestions by Hesse's Minister for the Environment to make use of the existing laws to ban the production of certain poisonous materials.

For example, there are restrictions on the use of but no ban on the production of the highly toxic PCB, polychlorinated biphenyl, which can be used as a refrigerant and is a base material for dioxine, the Seveso poison.

Zimmermann is going for "a better control over certain used oils" — including those which contain PCB.

Even pesticides which are banned in the Federal Republic because of their danger can still be produced and exported to Third World countries.

According to estimates by the World Health Organisation, there are over half a million cases of intoxication there every year.

Despite bad experience to the contrary, the West German government still believes in the protestations of trade circles and encourages returnable bottles instead of the one-way packaging.

The local communities are left to face the problems. However, within the framework of the amendment, Zimmermann will be taking a closer look at the problems of packaging. Regulations are needed here as voluntary agreements don't work.

Experience has shown that harmful substances can be poisonous in lower dosages than the official "limits."

This was pointed out recently with regard to air pollution by the Bavarian minister for the Environment, Dick.

The burning of waste material, a method preferred in Bavaria, cannot be the right way.

Zimmermann is also taking a look at other European countries. Yet there is also plenty of toxic material which comes from Germany.

Each year hundreds of thousands of tons of waste are transported by heavy transporters from the Federal Republic to a special waste disposal site in Schöneberg, near Lübeck, in East Germany.

Water risks

As a special report by the Bremen Environmental Institute confirmed in summer this year some of this toxic waste finds its way back into West Germany via the groundwater.

West Germany itself has enough problems with its waste disposal sites, even with the "well-kept" ones.

There are at least 45,000 (estimate by the Federal Environmental Agency) old rubbish tips and waste disposal sites in West Germany, a kind of ticking time bomb.

The success of new legislation will have to measured in terms of the extent to which waste is prevented and not merely disposed of, recycled or burnt.

Martin Urban

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 September 1983)

Cleaner air cash save

Financial benefits of a d... tion of air pollution w... the costs of achieving the re... legates at an environmenta... heard.

The meeting was conve... Aspen Institute to deal wit... blem of dying forests.

According to an OECD ... halving of the emissions from... and power plant stacks as wel... car exhausts would be balanc... the benefit gained within ten y...

And this study does not ... into account the enormous d... the forests.

There were 27 delegates f... countries including Poland a... choslovakia. They appealed t... natories of the Geneva Conv... begin reducing sulphur dioxi... trogen dioxide emissions. The... gy it was agreed, is available.

However, the President of t... German Environmental Age... Lersner, underlined during a ... ference that there is a tec... limit to the reduction of nitrog... which is much lower than tod... dard.

Although there is still a gr... research to be done on the co... between pollution of the a... and the dying forests, this mu... used as an alibi for doing noth...

It was important that those ... which have not yet been fully ... environmental catastrophe of t... forests take preventive action.

In the end, it was cheaper ... pollution at the right time, ... West Germany had failed to d...

(Der Tagesspiegel, 18 Sep...

Drinking water 'under threat'

Scientists believe that there is a worldwide threat to the quality of drinking water.

Pollution is increasing, delegates to a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) conference in Koblenz heard.

The 350 scientists from 50 countries dealt with the problems of water shortage and the danger to the earth's ground water stocks.

Hydrologists confirmed that ground water is still not treated with sufficient care.

Many agricultural areas are overfertilised and many farmers tend to use too much manure at the wrong times.

Even farmyard manure and liquid manure pose a threat to ground water:

"Everything the yard produces", said one speaker, flows in winter on frozen ground into other water channels and thus into the ground water.

Today's concrete jungles make it more and more difficult for surface water to seep into the ground. Ground water stocks cannot be replenished.

dpa

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 August 1983)

Europe reveals plans to cut pollution

European steps towards protecting the environment were outlined at a meeting in Karlsruhe.

EEC Commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes said it is planned to control large-scale industrial furnaces.

He also announced an emergency programme to control atmospheric pollution.

Bonn's Minister for Research and Technology, Heinz Riesenhuber, urged delegates to do all they could to recognise and fight damage to the environment.

The international dimension of environmental problems, he said, is underlined by the damage to the forests to be observed throughout Europe.

"In view of the open airspace over Europe," he said, "we can only solve our environmental problems if we work together closely and in mutual trust."

Alongside air pollutants, in particular sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, heavy metals and photo oxidants, factors of dryness, frost, biotic damage, and forest planning must be taken into account.

Riesenhuber continued: "We must pool the information we already have so that we can then coordinate these results and put things into practice."

In view of the many questions still unanswered and the dramatic development of environmental problems, Riesenhuber asked the 700 delegates from 18 western nations to conduct an open discussion. There were no representatives from the Soviet bloc countries.

EEC Commissioner Narjes said the main problems facing European environmental policies could be tackled successfully. The discussion about the introduction of unleaded petrol in the Federal Republic showed that.

Negotiations with the Japanese motor industry, on the other hand, were proving more difficult.

Even though many problems could be solved in these discussions, the European Community should not resort to protectionist measures on the car market.

Narjes is hoping that a European overall solution, the Erga project, will bring about a further breakthrough on reducing car pollution.

The project's report on pollutant emissions from cars is to be presented to the European Commission at Easter 1984.

As Narjes underlined there is also research into the effects of reducing car emissions on the refining costs, energy costs and the motor industry itself.

In the meantime, Narjes urged the EEC member states to reduce the lead content of their petrol to 0.15 milligrams per litre.

He announced that a European regulation on large-scale furnaces is to be presented in November. This will mean that industrial plants throughout Europe will be subject to official ... All measures must be undertak... duce emissions.

In the draft version, ceilings ... for the known pollutants is ... with thermal performance.

The West German regulati... large-scale furnaces serve as a m...

A limited operating licence ... granted for plants which have ... been approved of. The older pl... have to be examined to check ... dernisation possibilities.

Insome cases, the plants will ... a transitional period of ten yea... notification of the guidelines ... being closed down.

Together with these suggestion... jes announced the presentation o... ropean emergency programme ... the pollution of the atmosphere.

Alongside quality targets for ... oxides and dust, new limits ... laid down for the sulphur co... heating oil.

sulphur content of smaller ... medium-scale industrial inciner...

The burning and disposal of ... is also to be regulated in an EC ... dised way.

The Commissioner also anno... greater research efforts in Europe.

During the coming weeks the ... Commission will be providing fi... support for about 40 research pr... granting about DM7bn.

A further DM10bn are earmark... environmental research in 198... 1985.

(Handelsblatt, 20 Septem...

THE ARTS

Rating the ballet companies: an armchair assessment

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, Who is the fairest of them all?

Up to now, nobody has ever found how many West German ballet di... ors anxiously ask themselves this old question every morning.

There is no such thing as a state-ap... ed mirror which could help them or tell them whether a nameless ... omer has already made it to the ... somewhere behind "the seven ...

The only way to find out more about ... situation and popularity of the bal... companies is to have a good subjec... guess.

...r, who can decide how such ensem... should be fairly rated? The critics? ... audience? Or even the ballet per... ers themselves?

Which criteria should be chosen to ... success? And, finally, how could success be compared in a kind of hit ... of West German ballet companies? ... stions upon questions.

The guest performances by the re... tive companies at least gives us an ...: Which company has appeared ... many times in which countries?

The answers will show how popular ... ballets are abroad. This criterion ... ld indicate that not much is thought ... the ballet companies from the Bava... State Opera and the German Opera ... the Rhine.

The Bremen ballet company, on the ... r hand, is more popular.

During the last three seasons, Rein... Hoffmann and her young team ... visited Paris, Brussels, London, ...ce, Rome, The Hague and Dublin.

The Folkwang Dance Studio from ... n is also an international "hit." The ... mble run by Susanne Linke, howe... is not affiliated to any particular ...re and is thus dependent on tours ... its income. This makes it a special ...

There are basically five companies ... ch are worth serious consideration ... n trying to discover which are the ... successful (the sporadic appearan... by the Freiburg, Heidelberg and ... sruhe companies do not warrant in... ion here).

The top companies are as follows: the German Opera ballet company from Berlin, the Hamburg State Opera ballet company, the Cologne Dance Forum, the Stuttgart ballet company, and the Wuppertal Dance Theatre.

If the number of tours over the past few years is taken as a yardstick, these companies represent West German ballet "outside" of the Federal Republic.

The Berlin German Opera ballet company, for example, put on 30 performances in the United States during the 1980/81 season.

The Hamburg company appeared 23 times in Holland, Belgium and South America during the same period.

The Cologne group managed 26 performances in Sweden, France, England, Holland and Switzerland.

The Stuttgart company was runner-up with 44 performances in Sofia, the United States, Canada, Mexico and England.

Pina Bausch and her Wuppertal company take a clear lead with 55 appearances in South America, Mexico, Italy, Israel, Holland and France.

The frontrunners showed their strength even more during the following season.

The Berlin company had no guest performances at all, and the Cologne group only managed eight in Brussels, Gent, Ljubljana, Belgrade, Luxembourg and Sofia.

John Neumeier and his Hamburg company at least had 17 evening and 2 workshop matinée performances in cities such as Paris, Leningrad, Luxembourg and Lausanne.

The Stuttgart ballet company, which made its way to Rome and Winterthur, was supported in its success by the season's tour of South America (Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Santiago de Chile, Sao Paulo, Montivideo).

However, those company's 24 performances still couldn't compete with the 35 performances by the Wuppertal group in Paris, Vienna, Australia and Holland.

The Wuppertal Dance Theatre also showed a lead for the 1982/83 season: 43 performances in London, Rome, Brussels, Paris and Milan, not to mention visits to France and Switzerland.

For the first time, however, the Hamburg company moves in close behind with 32 ballet evenings and three workshop matinées in New York, Paris and Venice.

The Cologne and Berlin companies still exhibit a meagre yield with two performances in Bucharest and four performances in San Antonio/Texas respectively.

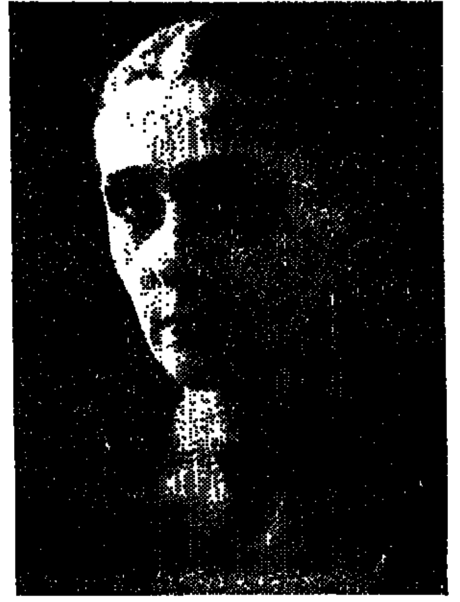
The Stuttgart company really slipped down a peg. Marcia Haydée team recorded only fifteen performances in Prague, Salzburg and Paris.

Is this cause for concern? A changing trend? According to the press spokesman for the Stuttgart ballet company, Rainer Woihsyk, not at all.

He puts the slack period down to the lack of financial backing, which is particularly important to a large company like the Stuttgart one. Many invitations to perform, therefore, simply had to be turned down.

Rainer Woihsyk refers to a certain curiosity gap with regard to the Hamburg company. The Stuttgart company is already known everywhere.

Although this sounds plausible, two other reasons are just as valid.



Pina Bausch ... clearly in the lead numerically. (Photo: Hannes Killian)

John Cranko's choreographies, which used to be the Stuttgart company's real crowd pullers, have now become general international property. Any ensemble that wants to be successful has to include them. You don't *have* to go to a guest performance to see them any longer.

A second reason may well be the failure of the Stuttgart company to develop new ideas and prevent the threatening disinterest of part of its audience.

If the announcements by the ballet management is to be believed, all this will change in the near future.

Maybe the Stuttgart performers will be in demand again, perhaps the financial problems will be solved.

Although a look in the mirror can present a slightly distorted image of reality it often triggers new ideas on how to change that image.

Hartmut Regitz

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 10 September 1983)

Assignment for Zurich Sprayer

Swiss artist Harald Nägeli, the "Zurich Sprayer", is to accept a special ...ing post at Wiesbaden Technical ...lege. The move must be approved ... Hesse's Education Ministry.

Nägeli is to take on a course in ...rms of Visual Communication" in ... Designing Department.

Nägeli was given a suspended senten... with probation of eight months im... onment after spraying matchstick ... on public buildings Zurich.

The international warrant for his ... st led to his apprehension by border ... ds on August 27 in Puttgarden.

He was placed under provisional ... st in Lübeck and then released on ... in the town in which he is resident, ... sseldorf.

dpa

(Der Tagesspiegel, 23 September 1983)

TV buys films while (cheap) stocks last

The squabbling about American film packages for the German TV audience, and the accompanying million-mark legal suit, has recently put the spotlight on the purchasing policies of West German TV companies.

The subsidiary of the ARD television company, for example, Degeto (Frankfurt) has not only been busy buying material for presentation in the near future, but "panic-buying" for the 1990s.

Each year is buys 180 feature films from all over the world, just as many TV series and about 200 other TV productions.

The *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Bild und Ton* (Organisation for Picture and Sound) has an annual budget of DM65m at its disposal.

In the face of expected price increases for films in the wake of new media developments, it feels obliged to buy now while the prices are still low.

This is a plausible argument. The purchasing prices for films have inreased since the mid-seventies at a faster rate than the general rate of inflation — namely, from a average DM120,000 to an average DM140,000, a fact pointed out in Munich by the deputy manager of Degeto, Franz Everschor.

Of the 40,000 films selected over the years, Degeto chose 10,000 of them.

On average, four feature films are shown each day on German TV. ARD, the first channel, presented 262 films in 1982, the ZDF, the second channel 257, and the various (regional) third programmes 855.

The feature film boom on German TV channels is unbroken. As Everschor pointed out to a study group on broadcasting history in Munich, "the films are still right at the top of the popularity ratings".

This wasn't always the case. The foundations were laid during the 1960s. Today, twelve per cent of total TV programmes are feature films.

The series put on by the ARD and ZDF, *Das Filmfestival* (The festival of films) and *Der besondere Film* (The special film), have increased popularity.

In a move away from the classic Hollywood or sentimental *Heimat* films (films produced in an idealised regional setting), the film editors wanted to see whether a blend of entertainment and quality could attract even more viewers. And attracted they were.

Even the third programmes, which used to be reserved for experimental film productions, many of them with subtitles, now show first-rate material.

The viewers are being given more and more say in what is to be shown on TV.

Heinz Rühmann can be seen alongside Francois Truffaut, Louis de Funes alongside Luis Bunuel.

The initiators of this move feel that they deserve the credit for improving the viewing figures for directors such as Ernst Lubitsch, Bernardo Bertolucci or Claude Chabrol.

The cat-and-mouse game between the film and TV, the "feud between hostile brothers", is likely to continue now that the whole media structure, from cable TV to video, is changing.

The purchasing-policy problems are just a sign of these changing times.

Even countries rich in film tradition, such as Britain and Italy, are noticing a drop in standards. The effects take longer before they are felt in the relatively inexperienced Federal Republic of Germany. The rarities from the more offbeat nations cannot fill the gap.

The big US companies are producing fewer and fewer films which have an ever-increasing budget.

Everschor, who was unwilling to go into great details on account of the ongoing negotiations for a film package, feels that it's better to go straight to the producer. Middlemen, such as the prosecuting party in the current legal dispute, *Taurus Film Munich*, should only be used if they can offer attractive film packages put together from different sources.

The Munich-based communications researcher, Wolfgang R. Langenbucher, tries to straighten the picture out somewhat by modifying the positive influence of TV on films.

Despite more leisure time, less people go to the cinema. If there was for some reason no TV, there would be a sharp increase in cinema-going.

Langenbucher feels that only the fact that the amount of leisure time has increased along with increasing TV viewing has saved the cinema and newspaper media from being displaced altogether.

dpa

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 20 September 1983)

Violence and hooliganism have become a major problem at metropolitan schools.

Blackmail, vandalism and physical threats are common. Parents fear for the safety of their children.

Vandalism in schools has cost Hamburg DM14m over the past ten years. It costs North Rhine-Westphalia DM10m a year.

Then there is the psychological damage to children.

The problem is worst in the huge big city schools where children and juveniles form Mafia-like gangs. Protection money is extorted. Those who resist get beaten.

The normal pranks of only one generation ago have turned into brutality and violence.

In Bochum, a 14-year-old recently stabbed a blackmailer of the same age because he was no longer able to pay the price. In this instance, Mafia methods resulted in death.

Teachers, parents, psychologists and the police don't know how to cope. Many major high schools have introduced vigilante groups.

More parents accompany their children to school and pick them up afterwards.

Psychological counselling centres are trying to get to the root of the problem. One reason is constant violence on television and other media. The children want to try out what they see.

Experts in America, where drug addiction and violence in schools have been the main problem for years, also see a connection between this and the daily TV.

But this is probably not the only reason. The Psychological Counselling Centre in Düsseldorf blames some of the violence on conflicts within the classroom, excessive scholastic demands and the lack of opportunity for self-realisation and self-assertion.

■ CHILDREN

Hooliganism, vandalism and violence in the playground

In the anonymous surroundings of a big school, children feel lost and disoriented, which leads to a feeling of helplessness. This, in its turn, can easily turn into aggression.

The functional and efficient school buildings lack the humanity young people need for their wellbeing and healthy development.

Classrooms are overcrowded, and there is excessive rivalry among the children. In most instances, the form teacher is no longer the person children can go to with their problems.

Even at home, most children and juveniles no longer find outlets for their spirit of adventure. They have little opportunity to develop and pursue new hobbies, and with many of these young people listlessness is the order of the day.

Yet even minor changes in everyday life at school could improve things, as demonstrated by an Essen school.

There, an entire school was permitted to decorate its classrooms as the children pleased.

The youngsters painted their classroom walls with pictures showing a jungle with animals, landscapes and street scenes.

Every classroom suddenly had its personalised appearance and every one of the children had helped bring this about.

It was only natural that all of them should try to preserve this very personal realm.

Other schools have meanwhile followed the Essen example. They now permit the children to decorate their classrooms and make them less impersonal.

After all, it is not the small rural schools where violence and vandalism thrive but the huge, impersonal teaching complexes of the big cities.

The reason is quite simple: there is no anonymity in villages and small towns and the conduct of the individual child does not go unnoticed by his peers who thus exercise a "social control."

More and more parents now opt for private day and boarding schools which have experienced and unprecedented boom in the past few years despite the high cost of private education.

Though middle class parents find it hard to raise the money, they consider the hardship worthwhile. Their children have small classes, personal contact with their teachers and above all they are not exposed to violence.

Children who live in constant fear cannot be expected to perform well at school.

Sigrid Latka-Jöhring

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 10 September 1983)

Foreigners' tiny tots exposed on the roads

Foreign children under five are involved in traffic accidents four times as often as German children in the same age group.

Their injuries tend to be more severe than those of German children and the death rate is more than four times as high.

Of the 11 children who died in West Berlin traffic accidents in 1981, nine were children of foreigners.

This prompted West Berlin Senator for Economic Affairs and Transport Elmar Pieroth and the Berlin *Arbeiterwohlfahrt* (AWO), a workers' welfare organisation, to launch a pilot scheme to do something about it.

The experiment involved about 350 children from AWO kindergartens and from six municipal day care centres. Similar projects have been launched in Bochum and Frankfurt.

The aim was to provide parents and kindergarten teachers of pre-school children with practical aids for traffic education and to test the effectiveness of the educational material of the Children's Traffic Club.

The results will later be used in the general traffic education of foreign children.

Among the major points were behaviour in traffic and the teaching of traffic rules through toy vehicles.

Children were taken on excursion and meetings with their parents were held.

Senator Pieroth and members of the

Continued on page 13

Failure? No, just began school too yo...

Most children start school... says education ps... Charlotte Zillmann, of G... Munich.

"We are all familiar wit... and often intelligent and ta... dren who are nevertheless st... dish and psychologically und... ed," she says.

"The point is not all chi... between 6 and 6.6 years ar... mature enough for school... them don't reach that stage... are aged between 6.7 and 7 ye...

"Children who are sent to... fore they are 6 are in most c... an irreparable injustice," says... mann, who can look back on... 25 years of experience in her f...

She has found that man... "school failures" she has he... with had high IQs.

She recommends not sendin... to school "before it has inte... through the anthropologically... tant and irreplaceable playing p...

A school starter should be a... controlling his spontaneous... keep moving, he should have p... ed from the pudgy shape of a t... the leaner shape of a young ch... if at all possible, he should ha... lost all his milk teeth. But abov... child should have a certain a... stamina and be able to concen...

If in doubt, postpone, says... Zillmann, pointing to the... Schools that operate on Ru... ner's theory of a 7-year rhythm... not accept children before th... reached that age.

The psychologist also reco... that children should be able... school in the spring and in th... because this would be the bes... adjusting to the child's rhythm.

But what is to be done whe... has already started school to e... it turns out that his performan... deteriorating as the year progr...

Frau Zillmann: "To start wi... you need is more courage and... mity when a child comes ho... poor marks. Even adults don't... get top marks for their day-to-d... The best response to poor ma... try to get to the bottom of th... and to discuss with the child ho... medy the situation."

Frau Zillmann herself has... been successful with her tried a... ven recipe which she calls the "... break."

This amounts to taking the ch... of school for a while (which... done on a doctor's or psych... cerfificate), taking him away so... re for a few weeks or even mo... recreation and sport and then re... him to school and putting him... next lower class.

The psychologist stresses that... used the method successfully wi... dreds of "failures."

"The change of environment... tended break from school, the r... vacation atmosphere and new i... sions make the previous negativ... riences with school fade. Co... hope, the will to perform and se... dence return," writes Charlotte... mann in her book *Begabte Sc...ger* (talented failures) publishe... Ernst Reinhardt Verlag, Munich.

Elizabeth Ed...

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 17 Septem...)

■ MEDICINE

Flying is risky, especially to some places

Süddeutsche Zeitung

...fthansa uses 130 doctors in va...rious parts of the world on con... 120 met in Munich to compare... and their experiences turned out ... wide ranging.

...Bangkok, Dr. Prapa Wongphaet, is ...Lufthansa man. He speaks German. ...y of his cases involve Germans ...have picked up venereal disease — ...have been referred to him through ...airline.

...owever the biggest single problem ...thansa's doctors face is people with ...t problems..

...er the past five years, 55 people ... died on Lufthansa flights. Most ... under treatment for cardio-vascu... disorders. They had flown without ...ng medical advice.

...fthansa's head doctor, Dr Helmut ...rk, suggested that people being ...ted for major cardiovascular disor... should report this when booking.

...taff at ticket counters should try to ...ke passengers volunteer the informa...

...ut this is unlikely to be popular. Are ... staff to ask a somewhat shaky old ...n or a pale woman in her 70s to re...t on the state of their health?

...he discussion became heated when ... issue of transporting patients who ... heart attacks was raised.

...fthansa guidelines prohibit tran...ting people in the first eight weeks ...r a heart attack. But they came ...er criticism, especially by American ...tors.

They told the meeting about patients who had no problems with flying only two weeks after the attack. But they stressed that the duration and altitude of the flight are important.

In earlier years, domestic Lufthansa flights rarely flew higher than 8,000 metres (26,000 ft). But this is different now with 10,000 metres (33,000 ft) no rarity.

In the pressurised cabin of a jet, an altitute of 8,000 metres corresponds to a normal altitude of 2,200 metres (7,200 ft).

"Many passengers still believe that conditions in a pressurised cabin are the same as at sea level," Dr Baark told the meeting. The decision on whether to allow a heart attack victim to fly is to be made jointly by the patient's own doctor and a Lufthansa contract doctor.

Lufthansa spokesmen drew attention to the fact that International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICOA) guidelines lay down a six-week gap between heart attack and flight.

Patients who must have a permanent oxygen supply can now get this even on long flights thanks to the aviox oxygen bottle with replaceable cartridges. The device passed its acid test recently on a flight from Peking to Frankfurt and Hamburg.

Patients who have to be transported lying down can now make use of what is known as the medical compartment, a totally enclosed cabin with a sickbed.

There are no more fears that other passengers will be disturbed by sounds or smells coming from a sickbed. Lufthansa transported 700 "horizontal" passengers last year.

Problems of tropical medicine were dealt with at length, particularly malaria and the growing resistance of the disease to preventive medication.

On some flights to malarial areas, the cabin staff issued prophylactic pills to passengers who ignored the rule to start taking the pills two weeks before departure. But the practice had to be discontinued because it was not allowed.

Armin Ganser

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 15 September 1983)

Doctor explains agony behind pain research

Little is known about pain despite the fact that it is a sensory perception just like hearing or seeing, Professor Burkhart Bromm told the seventh annual meeting of the European Neurology Society.

A thousand doctors and scientists from many parts of the world came to Hamburg for the meeting.

Professor Bromm works with a pain research group at the Hamburg University clinic at Eppendorf Hospital.

The team has a big advantage because of the many research centres at the hospital, he said. This means that researchers and practising doctors could work more easily together.

Professor Bromm mentioned the ethical problems involved with pain research. Anybody doing research in this field must inflict pain. But ethical grounds made it difficult with both man and animal.

Experiments with volunteers were however, taking place world-wide. They were conducted under strictly ethical considerations and involved only relatively minor pain.

The latest research results showed that pain causes changes in the brain currents measured by electroencephalographs (EEC).

"These pains and their severity can be accurately measured by the picture an EEC provides," he said.

This could help in the treatment of people suffering from chronic pain and enable doctors to determine the effectiveness of painkillers.

Pain measurements could also help doctors decide whether or not to operate on a patient to provide relief.

It should also be possible to find answers to such questions as whether men are really more sensitive to pain than women, whether blondes suffer more than brunettes or white people more than coloureds.

"Pain has many components, among them rational and emotional ones that science should examine," said Professor Bromm. But the measuring of brain waves, an approach that could soon lead to reliable indications about the severity of a particular pain is only one aspect because pain goes beyond something that can be measured in terms of "volt" or "ampere". Pain also comes in different "colours", he said.

Scientists the world over are now working on a pain dictionary. They hope that this will help them to classify it through such terminology as "burning", "stabbing", "cutting", "drilling", "repulsive", "pleasant", "intense" or "weak".

What makes this type of pain scale difficult to apply is the fact that the severity of pain differs from one part of the body to the other. The closer to the head, the more severe, said Professor Bromm.

The Hamburg researchers are also delving into the physical reactions to pain, using such criteria as rising or falling blood pressure, widening of the pupils and paleness along with the fact that, given certain stress situations, the body can temporarily refuse to register pain at all — as in the case of some massive injuries.

The reason for this is assumed to be the excretion of endorphines, a morphia-like substance supplied by the human body itself.

Gisela Schütte

(Die Welt, 15 September 1983)

'Three million' children injured a year

...early two million children up to ...the age of 15 have accidents in ...t Germany each year. That is one ...ld in seven.

...his includes only reported acci...nts. The figure is more likely to be ...ee million, delegates to a doctors ...ting in Munich were told.

...ans Jürgen Christen told the Ger...n Paediatric Society's meeting that ... average this meant every child had ... four or five accidents by the time ...or she was 15.

...hristen, head of the Lübeck Paedia... Clinic's research team, said 40 per ... of deaths in that age group are ...m accidents.

...ighty per cent of accidents in which ...dren die are drowning, falls and ...fic accidents.

...ast year, 52,194 children up to age ...15 and 64,169 aged between 15 and ...were involved in road accidents, sad ...rman Automobile Association ...DAC) figures.

...The death figures were respectively ... and 980 fourteen per cent of all ...al road accidents involve young peo... under 18.

...Christen expects that developments ... road traffic will lead to an increase of ...n-fatal injuries to children.

...The frequency of accidents rises with the children's age while the risk of death diminishes with age.

Skull fractures, concussion and broken bones are the most common accident results with older children. Younger ones are hurt mostly by poisoning and burns.

The Lübeck researchers have evidence that children are in as much danger at home or during leisure time as on the road. Foreigners' children, especially Turks, those less well off, and children brought up by single parents were more accident-prone and their accidents were more serious.

Christen wants special preventive measures for these groups. Professor Joest Martinius of the Munich-based Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry, confirmed the accident prone nature of specially and psychologically disadvantaged children.

Professor Martinius stressed that children whose cerebral development is impaired before the accident also run a higher risk.

Professor Roland Gaedeke of the Freiburg University Paediatric Clinic emphasised the frequency of what he called bagatelle accidents among small children: For every fatal accident there are 40 accidents requiring hospitalisation, 100 to 200 requiring medical treatment and about 1,000 that call for no professional treatment.

These accidents differed from the fatal ones only regarding the severity of the injury but not regarding their causes.

Stressing the responsibility of adults, Professor Gaedeke said that it was up to them to eliminate sources of danger. It is also they, he said, who are frequently responsible for putting danger into a child's path by, for instance, planting poisonous bushes for decorative purposes.

He conceded, however, that the man-in-the-street finds it difficult to recognise daily living.

He said that 87 per cent of the respondents in one survey knew next to nothing about the poisonous properties of some household items. Two-thirds tought that the hydrocarbons contained in certain detergents were harmless.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 14 September 1983)

Traffic risk

Continued from page 12

project have now issued an interim report.

A preliminary analysis showed that the parents of foreign children must be more intensively included in traffic education.

Senator Pieroth said that the available traffic education material was inadequate and that new ways of presenting information to foreigners must be found.

Videotapes could be made available through rental shops or shown in recreational facilities for foreigners.

He said that the experiment had shown that the decisive element in traffic education was parental cooperation and that even the soundest of educational projects in day care centres were no substitute for the parents' example.

Foreign parents reticent to take an active part in traffic education. He attributed this to the parents' own difficulty in coping with metropolitan traffic.

All people who collaborated in the project were in favour of continuing the DM120,000 experiment.

Representatives of AWO and the Road Safety Council deplored the fact that neither the Senate nor the Bonn Labour and Social Affairs Ministry have so far pledged any further funds.

They also deplored the fact that research into the reasons why the children of foreigners are more accident-prone than German children has not been progressing.

The Berlin Senate paid for one-third of the experiment. The other two-thirds were paid by the Bonn Labour and Social Affairs Ministry and the Road Safety Council.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 24 September 1983)

■ ACHIEVEMENTS

A German at the court of the mandarins

Hans Müller ... a long march.
(Photo: Uli Franz)

A German, Hans Müller from Düsseldorf, has been made a member of China's People's Congress, the nation's parliament.

The People's Congress has several thousand members who are appointed rather than elected. It is not so much the general assembly but the various committees that have a certain leeway in putting forward recommendations, though even the committees can make no policy decisions.

Visitors to Peking who take the trouble to climb a small hill just north of the "Forbidden City" (the Imperial Palace) will look down on a rather ordinary looking residential area that in no way betrays the fact that it has been set aside for China's VIPs.

One of the residents there is strongman Deng Xiaoping; and only a stone's throw away, behind a red lacquered wooden door, lives Hans Müller in a rather large house (as houses in China go). The inner courtyard has been artfully stylised into a Japanese garden — the work of Müller's Japanese wife.

The living room with its Chinese furniture is sparsely decorated with Asian art.

Speaking haltingly, like somebody who finds it difficult to talk about himself, Hans Müller says he ultimately owes his membership in the People's Congress to Hitler, from whom he fled to China. But he is far from an ordinary emigrant.

Born in Düsseldorf in January 1915 while his father was at the front, Müller would probably still be living there if the Nazis had not been swept to power in 1933.

His father was a Jew, so Müller was not allowed to go to university. So he went to Basel, in Switzerland, in the autumn of 1933 and enrolled at the medical school.

"I didn't think Hitler would stay in power for more than a couple of months," he says.

In January 1939, when Hitler had already gobbled up Czechoslovakia and Müller had just received his medical degree, he came to realise that there was little likelihood of any resistance against the Nazis in Europe.

He decided to go somewhere where Hitler was still being fought. But since the Spanish Civil War was almost over, this left him with China, which was still fighting against Japan, an Axis power.

Through friends, he managed to establish contact with Mao's army, and a little while later he boarded a French ship in Marseilles to sail to Hong Kong. "It was a pleasant three-week voyage," he says.

It took months by ship, train and lorry to get from Hong Kong to the Chinese army. But the army he wound up with was Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang.

They tried to lure the young doctor into joining their own Red Cross, but Müller was revolted by the corrupt Kuomintang officer corps.

Although they kept a close watch on him, he managed to get away and eventually reached Yennan where Mao's troops had their headquarters. His arrival caused a sensation.

Nobody cared much about ideology in those days. As Müller sees it looking back on that time, "all that mattered was that I was against Hitler. I myself was not interested in politics, except that I didn't like Hitler."

He started off working in a Yennan hospital but found this work "too peaceful". He asked to be sent to the front.

This meant another journey by lorry, on horseback or on foot across the Yellow River and through the Japanese lines before reaching the liberated areas in the mountains.

Müller, who had brought his surgical kit with him from Switzerland, was appointed army surgeon.

He had to operate under the worst of conditions, mostly working in peasant huts. His assistants and orderlies were 11 to 14-year-old boys, most of them orphaned by looting Japanese troops.

The hardships would have been unbearable to anybody who did not see a deeper meaning behind them.

The food consisted mainly of millet and a bit of vegetables on high days and holidays.

There were thousands of wounded and hundreds of thousands died.

Mao's army was so poorly equipped that it usually cost two lives to capture one rife.

One day, Müller was caught in a Japanese ambush. He managed to save his skin but lost his surgical kit.

He fled and fell ill with typhoid and dysentery. This was compounded by poor food and headquarters decided to order him back to Yennan.

It was there that Mao invited him to lunch.

Müller: "He sat almost silently, leaving the talking to me. He wanted to know exactly where I came from, what I thought about the war — both in China and in Europe. It was always I who had to do the talking."

At that time he also met Deng Xiaoping, with whom he frequently played bridge after the war.

Deng was the political commissar of a 300,000-man division which was in Müller's medical care.

It was Müller who taught Deng bridge and the two neighbours still play a game from time to time.

They were both heros of the revolution and victims of the cultural revolution. But Müller's lot was somewhat easier than that of Deng Xiaoping. When the cultural revolution came he — a professor by then — stayed aloof and survived it without humiliation.

Since Müller's original intention was to stay only until the war against Hitler was over, he tried to enlist American help in getting home in 1945.

But the Americans barred the doctor of Mao's Red Army from his home country.

He nevertheless left the army. He was given two horses and one man as an escort and set off on the long trek home via Russia.

They were under way for months, getting almost as far as Inner Mongolia — constantly forced by enemy troops to make detours.

In the end, his Chinese friends no longer found it hard to talk him into staying after all — at least until the victory over the Nationalist troops.

The victory came in 1949. But until then he had had to run from the enemy time and again. On one occasion, he was joined by a Japanese nurse, an Imperial Army straggler.

"She captured me," says Müller wryly of his wife.

By 1949 he had spent ten years fighting with Mao's troops, becoming fluent in Chinese in the process. His friends asked him to stay and help build up the ravaged nation.

He stayed for what he thought at the time would be "a little while longer," first as the director of a hospital and later as professor of medicine.

He became a Chinese citizen in 1951, and from then on he was given one office after another. He was appointed dean of a medical school at the age of 38.

He had two children: a son and a daughter.

In 1960, he collapsed from overwork. One year later, he was back at work in charge of Peking's Medical School, an office he still holds.

Though Müller joined the Communist Party at one point, ideolo[...] mained alien to him.

He views China's position [...] jectively, conceding that even [...] cades after liberation it remain[...]

But this, he says, must be [...] light of what the old China wa[...]

It is impossible to describe [...] tions he found when he first [...] China. At that time, he says, [...] pectancy was 25 years. Peo[...] from hunger were lining the st[...]

Today, nobody goes hungry [...]

But he is realistic enough [...] that China has a long way to go [...]

He expects the mechanis[...] farming and the development [...] cient industry to take a long [...]

He also stresses that are [...] problems to be overcome in [...] field, where he has a certain [...]

Modern medicine is too expe[...] China, and the nation will st[...] fall back on traditional herbal [...] for many years to come, he say[...]

Even though he has now be[...] member of the Chinese People['s Con]gress, he does not think tha[...] been recognised as a full-fledg[...] nese. "My nose is too big for tha[...]

It is the big noses and feet [...] peans that have always made th[...] se laugh at them.

The question of whether [...] against Hitler was worth it [...] him. Thinking about it for a w[...] answers in his ponderous way[...] dering the circumstances under [...] left Germany I could hardly h[...] ed anything better. I'm satisfi[...] my life, but it was anything but [...] ing to keep running from the Ja[...]

Ulrich [...]

(Die Zeit, 16 Sept[...])

[L]IVING

[T]he incredible puppet world [o]f Käthe Kruse

Hamburger Abendblatt

[T]he world that Käthe Kruse created [...]was, for many, an intact one that [...]d nothing: the phantasy world of [pup]pets.

[...]he Kruse's own life, ironically, [...] some ways the very opposite. She [was] born 100 years ago as Katharina [...]n in Breslau, the illegitimate [daug]hter of a poor Silesian seamstress.

[As] an adult she deliberately lived [with] a man out of wedlock as a protest [again]st social attitudes of the time. She [did n]ot marry until her third child was [...]

[Wa]s her talent art or skilled handi[work]? Opinions vary. In the opinion of [her] husband, Max Kruse, the puppets [were] handiwork.

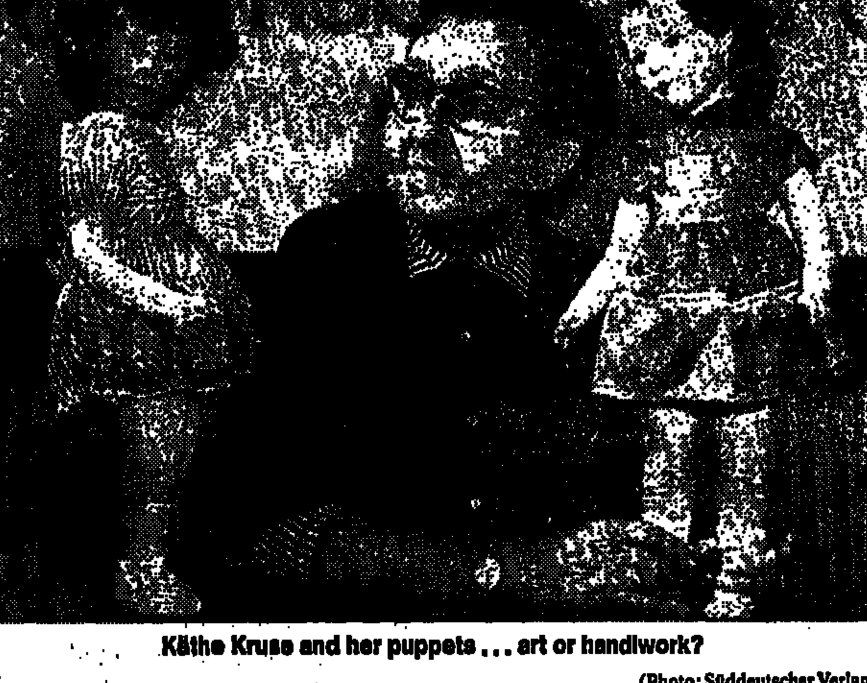
[Bu]t this is a judgment that may have [been] influenced by injured vanity. Pro[...] Max Kruse was a painter and [sculpt]or of renown. Friedrich Nietzsche [sat] for him for a bust model.

[He] invented plastic stage setting. And [he wa]s also a writer. Only recently a [book] has appeared about his childhood [mem]ories with many unknown draw[ings].

[Bu]t in later years he became merely [the] "husband of Käthe Kruse".

[H]e had himself taken the trouble to [...] the talents of his almost 30 year [youn]ger wife: when the first daughter, [...], asked for a puppet in 1905, he [refuse]d to buy one. "Make yourself [one]," he said to his wife.

[Kät]he Kruse did exactly that. She [used] a handkerchief filled with sawdust [and a] potato for the head to create her [first] puppet. The enthusiasm of her [daug]hter, made Käthe realise that she [had] a special talent.



Käthe Kruse and her puppets ... art or handiwork?
(Photo: Süddeutscher Verlag)

It wasn't her first success in the world of the arts. As a 17-year-old actress she had appeared on the stage under the stage name of Helga Somin.

But the pull of the handicraft must have been stronger. In 1910 she took part in a competition run by the Berlin department store Tietz. Her puppets enraptured not only the judges but also the Berliners who came to look at the entries. It was clear how Käthe Kruse's life was to change.

She set up shop in a small town called Bad Kösen, near Naumburg in what today is East Germany, where she lived with her seven children.

Every puppet was made by hand. Each had real hair, wore typical clothing and above all, all had distinctive facial expression.

She placed great value on facial expressions. Her youngest son, Max, a well-known writer of children's books, writes in a newly released book how almost every night his mother would go into the deserted workshop to look for faults in the finished puppets.

Facial expressions were the important thing. She would fasten notes to the puppets with instruction about what alterations were to be made.

"She doesn't laugh sweetly enough," or "she looks as if she has a pain in the stomach," or "she stares lifelessly".

This very precision is reputed to be the reason why the puppets won prizes at world exhibitions in Barcelona and Paris, why Queen Elizabeth had one as a child, and why Caroline Kennedy, daughter of the assassinated President Kennedy also had one. Kennedy was given the puppet by Chancellor Adenauer in 1963 when he visited Germany.

Puppets have not come from Bad Kösen for a long time. In 1950, the production plant was taken over by the East Germans as the people's works to produce "real Käthe Kruse puppets" for export throughout the East Bloc.

Käthe Kruse moved to Donauwörth in 1952. There she built a new workshop which is now run by two of her daughters, Sophie and Hanna.

The woman who gave her name to the puppets died in 1968. "Words from the heart are a world language," she once said, as she spoke about the success of her puppets. "This talk is international. The puppet is proof of that."

Horst Schüler

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 17 September, 1983)

Aid worker reflects on lessons of her two Caribbean years

[W]here in Germany could I identify so closely with work?" asked [...]na Gartzke-Baensch after two years [as] an aid worker in the Dominican Re[pub]lic in the Caribbean.

"Working with people there is an ex[peri]ence." She used her knowledge of [busi]ness administration to help a [wom]en's farming cooperative. She now [feel]s that it will be difficult to adjust to [life] in Germany again.

[F]rau Gartzke-Baensch is one of 200 [wom]en aid workers of the German de[velo]pment service (DED). There are [few]er women in the service now than [ther]e were. In 1971, women comprised [...] per cent of German aid workers. [This] year, fewer than 25 per cent are.

[T]his is because women are overwhel[ming]ly employed in traditional female [jobs] such as nursing or teaching. In the [las]t few years, the need for nurses has [dec]lined. Many African countries can [trai]n their own women.

The demand is constantly growing [fo]r people in technical fields. In Germany, relatively few women are experienced in technical fields.

Frau Gartzke-Baensch: "I had to fight for almost a year to be recognised as a competent adviser." She says women must often do more than men in order to get recognised.

She and her husband went to the Dominican Republic in 1981. Both wanted to work on agricultural projects.

Her husband was qualified for technological training.

She was trained in business administration.

At the beginning, the villagers went only to her husband for advice: "Because of this, I made a point of appearing alone to talk to people or at the courses I ran I won confidence to the point where they came to me for advice as a matter of course."

Colleagues from other parts of the Dominican Republic reported similar problems.

Frau Gartzke-Baensch's work was aimed at helping the women to learn to run the cooperative themselves.

Ten years ago, 30 women in the village (population:200) set about working together producing peanuts to increase their income. What was lacking was material support and the basic knowledge of running such an enterprise. So Frau Gartzke-Baensch ran regular courses in administration.

It is exceptional in DED that a women has the chance to work with her husband. In only one country are there more women than men workers: in Yemen, where there are 14 out of a force of 25.

The reason is that women doctors are needed. Women of Yemen are not allowed to be examined by male doctors.

At the DED centre in Berlin, a lot of thought has been given towards the declining number of women in the service.

A women's group within DED is trying to increase awareness of the problem. Because men decide programmes and carry out most of the work in most development lands, the needs of women in these nations is often not fully appreciated. Yet women found it much easier dealing with the women of developing lands, said Frau Gartzke-Baensch.

Winnie Sträter

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 17 September 1983)

Help en route from jail to freedom

Women who are released from jail generally find the going tougher than men in the same position. Most women find it more difficult to make contacts socially and they are more ashamed of having been imprisoned.

The city of Frankfurt runs a refuge to try and make the adjustment process easier. Its success rate since it was established in 1967 has been astounding.

Four hundred released women have been through the refuge. The relapse rate is only five per cent compared with a national rate of between 50 and 60 per cent.

The refuge centre is a converted shop. It is a place where women can go and talk over their problems both with other former prison inmates or with the staff, who are skilled in various fields.

Work does not end after a normal working day. Staff make follow up visits in the evenings to see if the women are managing to handle their new life.

Many of the released women find, perhaps for the first times in their lives, that the refuge gives them a reliable contact without making moral judgement.

One staff member said that first contact is normally made in prison six months before release. By the time the big day is due, the relationship has developed into one of trust.

The day of release is both the fulfilment of a wish and a moment of crisis. Anxieties mount. How will they react coming from a world with few responsibilities to one with many?

A refuge worker explains: "It is not only a matter of material things like a place to work and a place to live. It is important that they work out an attainable plan to live by after release."

Relapse is most likely immediately after release. The refuge workers try to nip the problem in the bud. Each woman should be seen each day. Few are able to go straight off to live in a stable environment.

Psychological and social help is given. But the main help is practical. The aim is to get the women to help themselves.

Few, explained the worker, could be allowed to make their way through red tape unaided. They tended to have difficulties dealing with officialdom.

Approaching landlords was an uncomfortable experience. There was the ever present feeling that "decent people" were given preference.

All this involved more work for refuge workers. They must spend more time helping out.

Staff take a strong personal interest in cases. They are prepared without fuss or bother to give up free evenings to see, for example, if a former charge has kept clear of trouble after staying off drugs for a year.

Drug addicts are the biggest problem. They are only looked after at the refuge if they take a cure. The incidence of drug-related offences among women is on the increase.

The refuge is run by the State of Hesse, the city of Frankfurt, and social welfare authorities.

Sylvia Bergmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 17 September 1983)